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With 11 months to go before the transition period ends, do you support extending the CW program for foreign workers by 5 more years?

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No	114
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Sunday, April 22, 2012

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Just as heart attack symptoms may differ between men and women, so do stroke risks. **PAGE 19**

LIFE & STYLE



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US govt recommends 41 mos. prison term for Ayuyu. **PAGE 3**

NMC reaffirms accreditation



By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Show-cause order lifted

The CNMI made history anew after its lone community college, which has been in severe sanction for eight years now, finally moved up the ladder and acquired full reaffirmation of its accreditation.

The Northern Marianas College was formally informed by the Accrediting Commission on Community Junior Colleges on Friday of its decision to lift the show cause order imposed on the college almost a year ago. The decision grants NMC the highest level of reaffirmation,

requiring no visits or reports after the commission action.

In a three-page decision, ACCJC president Barbara Beno, Ph.D., said the commissioners were fully satisfied with all the submissions made by NMC in-

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\$32.5M for NMI's pilot food stamp program

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

President Barack Obama signed Friday (Saturday, CNMI time) a nearly \$1 trillion agricultural spending bill containing a \$32.5-million pilot food stamp program for the CNMI, even as the new law cuts national food stamps by \$8 billion over the next decade that sparked a two-year battle in Congress over the legislation.

U.S. Public Law 113-79, signed by Obama in Michigan, sets aside \$2 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to study whether the CNMI can administer the national Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

(Ind-MP) said that beginning October 2015, \$30.5 million will be available to raise benefits for families in need in the CNMI—whether or not the islands are part of SNAP.

Sablan said he is grateful to everyone in Congress who helped him reach the "important milestone in my effort to fight hunger in the Northern Marianas."

"Getting families in the Northern Mariana Islands the same level of food assistance as other Americans has been my goal since I got to Congress. The signing of Public Law 113-79...is a huge step toward that goal," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The delegate has been pointing out

See FOOD STAMP on Page 4



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, standing at the podium, delivers his congratulatory remarks Friday while college officials, board members, and elected leaders look on. On Friday, the Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges lifted the show cause order slapped on Northern Marianas College and reaffirmed its accreditation with the organization.

Manibusan to run for AG

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Former CNMI Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan vowed to help ensure a "safer" community with a "strong rule of law" as he announced Saturday his plan to run for attorney general in the November polls, marking the first time in CNMI history when voters will get to elect their highest law enforcement official.

Manibusan is the first to publicly announce his AG candidacy, two years after CNMI voters ratified in 2012 House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz's (Ind-Saipan) legislative initiative making the attorney general position an elected one.

"It's going to be a long road. It's going to be a tough job, but I'm ready for the challenge," Manibusan told a crowd of supporters, colleagues, family and friends at his Fina Sisu resi-

dence early Saturday afternoon.

The CNMI attorney general position has always been a governor-appointed one.

Manibusan also introduced on Saturday his campaign team, led by chair Jack Diaz, vice chair/secretary Debora Fisher, treasurer Elsie Vil-lagomez, and member Gil Muña.

Diaz said he's "humbled" and "honored" to take the challenge of leading Manibusan's campaign team,

which he later said also has Lilly Aldan as a member.

Fisher, who has worked for Manibusan since 1998, said Manibusan is a "remarkable person and judge," and will be an "incredible" first CNMI attorney general.

At the gathering, the campaign team also played a short video of Manibusan's campaign statement, most of which are also contained in a written

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Manibusan

Local

GES' Johnson wins PSS State Counselor award

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Derwin Johnson, the lone school counselor at Garapan Elementary School, was selected as this year's Public School System Counselor of the Year awardee, besting 24 other contenders during an awarding ceremony Friday noon at the Pacific Islands Club.

Johnson provides guidance and assistance to over 800 students at his school. A truly dedicated educator, he has been serving "Students First" for the last 10 years now. He first joined public schools as a classroom teacher at Garapan Elementary

in 2005. After five years, he became the school's counselor and was first recognized in 2011 when he was named as GES Counselor of the Year. This year marks the first time he bagged the overall counselor award.

"I am very honored for this award. Being a counselor for hundreds of students is never an easy task. But with unwavering dedication and commitment, you will surely make a difference in the lives of our schoolchildren," he told *Saipan Tribune* after the awarding rites that saw the attendance of fellow counselors and PSS officials.

Johnson said he cannot own the recognition alone. He was appreciative of the trust of his peers and the effective collaboration of his Mallard family that pushed him to the top this year. Teamwork, he said, is a big factor in his win this year.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan handed Johnson the plaque of recognition for his exceptional performance Friday.

He succeeds 2013 State

Counselor awardee Pao Camacho of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Prior to completing his degree at NMC, Johnson was previously enrolled at the University of Guam's counselor program. He obtained his master's degree from Framingham University. Johnson is married to Elsie San Nicolas and they have three children: Ha'ane, Aiyon, Ma'ina, and I'rainia.

When asked what motivated

him to become an educator, he replied: "During my freshman college years, I put in many hours observing great teachers in action. I was inspired not only by the dedication and passion of these teachers but most importantly, moved by the responses and enthusiasm that was evident in the conversations and actual work that the students were engaged with." He said he saw himself in that capacity and believed that he, too, can inspire and bring about change.

For Johnson, there's never been such a more fulfilling and

satisfying job.

"You gain the trust and confidence of young learners who will eventually become our nation's leaders. Just making a difference in their lives, in that alone, is very fulfilling," he said, adding that a counselor serves as a mediator and peace builder, among other roles.

The key to his success, he said, is treating all students like his own daughters and sons.

Friday's awarding rites capped the PSS celebration of Schools Counseling Week in the Commonwealth.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2014 State Counselor of the Year awardee Derwin Johnson, center, poses with education officials during awarding ceremonies Friday at Pacific Islands Club. From left are Glenn Muña, associated education commissioner for administrative services; Paulette T. Sablan, Garapan Elementary School principal; Johnson; last year's State Counselor of the Year Pao Camacho of GTC Elementary School; and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

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MANIBUSAN

From Page 1

statement issued to reporters on site.

'Nobody should be above the law'

Manibusan, who served as a former judge and presiding judge of the CNMI Superior

Court, said the CNMI needs "a system that everyone believes in and that is fair for everyone."

"My focus as AG will be to provide a trustworthy Office of the Attorney General. I will make sure that the law is followed by individuals and government alike. Nobody should be above the law," he said.

Manibusan also served as justice pro tem of the CNMI

Supreme Court and Supreme Court of Guam. He is a former U.S. District court judge designate. His public service has also included serving as a former head of the CNMI Department of Public Safety, public defender and prosecutor.

"I want our children to have a bright future, and I will work to prevent juvenile crime through community outreach and youth

programs. But individuals who break the law, whether they are underage or adults, must be held responsible for their crimes," he added.

Manibusan currently maintains a private practice while serving as civilian aide to the U.S. Secretary of the Army, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., and chairman of the

See MANIBUSAN on Page 4



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim
Feb. 15, 2014

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) serves up double the fun on Tinian with

the **14th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim** slated for Feb. 15, 2014, the same weekend as the **10th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival**.

The triathlon will feature a 1.5 km swim, 40 km bike, and 10 km run, while the reef swim will offer three courses: 1.5 km, 3.0 km, and 4.5 km. There is no time limit for the race, offering all competitors the opportunity to enjoy the satisfaction of completing the event. The Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon and Reef Swim is also co-sponsored by **KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino**.

Registration costs are: \$80 for solo triathletes, \$60/member for triathlon teams of two or three members, and \$60 for reef swim only (all



distances). Registration fee includes the awards party on event day, a commemorative t-shirt, and swim cap. Registration will be held at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino poolside on Feb. 14 from 5-8 p.m., with the mandatory pre-race briefing from 6-7 p.m. at the same venue.

Cash payment only.

For more information or to register, contact Vida Borja at vborsa@mymarianas.com or 1.670.433.9365 or Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3210.



US govt recommends 41 mos. prison term for Ayuyu

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. government is recommending a 41-month prison term—the highest end of the sentencing range—for former senator Juan M. Ayuyu.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe said that everything Ayuyu did—and is attempting to do still today—counsels for the stiffest sentence possible, and, pursuant to the parties' agreement in this case, that is 41 months in prison.

"Such a sentence is not only appropriate here, but it will further send a clear message to others that, while the law applies to everyone, those that act like they are above it will be punished the most severely," said Backe in the U.S. government's sentencing memorandum filed in federal court on Friday.

Ayuyu will be sentenced today, Monday, at 1pm. His original sentencing date was Nov. 8, 2013, but this was postponed several times for several reasons.

Last July 22, Ayuyu pleaded guilty to two charges relating to the smuggling of endangered fruit bats from Rota to Saipan. Subject to the court's approval, he will receive a prison term between 33 months and 41 months.

On Sept. 30, 2013, Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) resigned as a member of the 18th Senate.

Backe said Ayuyu, an elected official at the time, knew full well that he was breaking the law when he attempted to ship federally protected fruit bats from Rota to Saipan.

"Indeed, like a criminal boss, he took steps to prevent their detection by law enforcement and had his assistant drop them

off at the airport instead of himself," Backe said.

Backe noted that Ayuyu's flagrant abuse of power occurred only 10 months after he assumed office.

"In other words, it took him less than a year to feel he could illegally smuggle fruit bats, tamper with a grand jury investigation, and approach a law enforcement officer and warn the officer point blank to stop his investigation or else he might lose his job," he said.

If that was not incredible enough, Backe said, Ayuyu, while in office, was also a regular user of methamphetamine or "ice"—"without question the most dangerous and damaging drug in the Commonwealth."

Backe said that Ayuyu's conduct after being indicted was even worse.

Since first being indicted

on Oct. 19, 2012, Ayuyu contacted two witnesses against the court's release orders, threatened to kill a fellow legislator, and possessed a cell phone in jail in direct violation of prison rules and federal law.

Backe said that even now, on the eve of sentencing, Ayuyu thinks he can fool the court with "preposterous assertions" like it was co-conspirator Ryan Manglona's idea to lie to the

grand jury; he only asked Erwin Flores, the investigation lead agent, "Why are you investigating me?"; and he has only used

drugs twice in his life.

"His lack of respect for the law proves to know no end," Backe said.

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MANIBUSAN

From Page 2

Judicial Discipline Enforcement Special Court of Guam.

"As a lifelong member of this community, I believe we share common goals: a safe community for our children and for our visitors; a strong rule of law which in turn welcomes development and strengthens the economy; fair treatment of all citizens by the criminal justice system; tough but fair prosecutions which are based on solid investigations; and an AG's office which is free from political partisanship," he said.

Manibusan resigned as chairman of the CNMI Democratic Party on Jan. 1. His supporters come from different political parties and independents.

Besides his legal background, Manibusan has also supported community youth programs including serving as chairman of the Youth Advisory Council-Office of the Governor from 2006 to 2010. During that time, he worked to implement fed-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Former CNMI Superior Court presiding judge Edward Manibusan, fourth from right, poses with some of his supporters after announcing on Saturday he is running for CNMI attorney general, now an elected position, in the November elections. He vowed to help ensure a "safer" community with a "strong rule of law."

eral funding for criminal justice youth programs. He reviewed projects, including youth community centers where children could come after school to study, after-school programs, and youth basketball programs.

Manibusan is also the founder and president of the Northern Marianas Junior

Golf Club League, and served on the board of directors of Mount Carmel School for many years.

He said he welcomes the opportunity to meet everyone who has thoughts about how the Office of the Attorney General can address concerns and problems facing the com-

munity. He urged the public to visit his website, www.ed-manibusanforag.com, or email him at manibusanforag@gmail.com.

While Manibusan is so far the only one who has officially announced his AG candidacy, other names have also been floating around, including attorney Mike

Evangelista and former deputy attorney general Viola Alepuyo, who told the media in October 2013 that she's seriously considering running as AG.

The current CNMI attorney general, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, will be holding the post only until a new one is elected as he has already announced that he

will run for Tinian mayor in the November elections.

'A new beginning'

House vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan) said yesterday that the intent has always been to give CNMI voters the "privilege" of electing the attorney general.

"This time, the AG will not be under orders by the governor as has been in the past. So yes, I believe that moving forward, this will be very good for the CNMI. I'm very happy also that this will be a new beginning," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the administration welcomes the elected AG process.

"This was decided by the people. There may be some concerns about how effective this structure may be, but this is mainly because of precedence in Guam and other states with an elected AG where there were reports of policy differences, stalled progress, lack of support to line agencies on civil matters, to name a few," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMC

From Page 1

cluding the show-cause report submitted on Oct. 15 last year, the external evaluation team's report that inspected the college on Oct. 21-22, the supplemental report turned in last December, and the oral testimonies of NMC representatives during the Jan. 8 ACCJC meeting in San Francisco.

"The commission found that NMC has resolved the deficiencies that were identified in the Feb. 11, 2013, action letter. The commission acted to remove show cause and reaffirmed accreditation," Beno stated in the order addressed to NMC president Dr. Sharon Y. Hart.

Beno specifically cited the efforts made by NMC and its Board of Regents to change the composition of the board by

removing the three honorary members.

ACCJC also noted NMC's efforts when it facilitated legislative changes that made NMC's mission a responsibility of the college and not the Legislature.

The creation of a policy on minimum qualifications for faculty also got the approving nod of the commission as well as the filling of all administrative vacancies.

Next up is a mid-term report that NMC must submit to the ACCJC in October 2015, with information showing the college has sustained the changes made to meet accreditation standards.

"The commission therefore requests that the college mid-term report provide evidence that these changes have been sustained and provide a college analysis of how will they be working," she stated.

According to Beno, "professional self regulation is the most effective means of assuring integrity, effectiveness, and educational quality."

Emotional crowd

Even before the formal letter was received Saturday (Saipan time), the commission's decision was shared with the public Friday when NMC called for a news briefing at 11:30am. The jam-packed D-1 room saw hundreds of mixed faces—students and employees, college executives and government leaders—all cheering the great news.

Hart, standing on the podium before the crowd, began her address by specifically recognizing the groups of people behind the college accreditation success.

For staying together through thick and thin, Hart thanked students and employees alike

for not jumping ship—as is the usual scenario in institutions when accreditation is at its most severe sanction.

"You decided to stay with us because you believe in this institution. Thank you for staying... because we couldn't have done this all without you and your help," said Hart, who was given a standing ovation after announcing the then informal decision.

There are four sanctions under ACCJC: reaffirmation, warning, probation, and the severe status of show cause. For the past eight years, NMC has been in the last three conditions until Friday.

Without accreditation, NMC will not be eligible to receive most federal financial grants and aids offered to students. In transferring credits, most colleges and universities honor only those from accredited edu-

cational institutions.

Full speed ahead

Associated Students of NMC president Alex Shen, who was among those in the crowd cheering while holding a poster that read "Accreditation Reaffirmed: Full Speed Ahead," was in high spirits Friday.

Shen said all the hard work paid off. "I am so happy and relieved! This is really for our students!" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Shen is convinced that with the latest accreditation decision, more students will be encouraged and inspired to "Start Smart" at NMC.

Shen said it is obvious that changes instituted at the college are working and will continue to work for students.

On Friday, a special cake and balloons were part of the "accreditation celebration" held for

students on campus.

Huge accomplishment

In their remarks, Gov. Eloy Inos and BOR chair Frank Rabauliman were one in saying that the reaffirmation of NMC is a "huge accomplishment" and a "big relief" for everyone.

Describing the amount of work and the costs associated in resolving the accreditation process as "exhausting," Rabauliman is nevertheless elated that the result is satisfying and a huge relief for students and stakeholders.

For his part, Inos told *Saipan Tribune* that key now for the college is "sustainability" and he vowed his administration's continued support. He recommended that the college place its key people to monitor each and every standard to ensure these are being met at all times.

FOOD STAMP

From Page 1

that he does not want food stamps to be a way of life in the CNMI, but only as a safety net for people until they can help themselves by getting jobs.

"The law also allows using some of the funds for career work training for program beneficiaries so they can transition from food stamps to jobs," said Sablan, who became a member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in 2011.

'Leftover funds'

In the meantime, while the CNMI awaits the results of the study, there is a way to increase food stamp benefits, Sablan said.

He said as he understands it, the CNMI presently has at least \$2 million of food stamp grant money "left over from prior years that could be used to increase benefits, and \$12 million

for this year."

"I certainly hope the governor will use as much of that \$14 million as soon as possible to increase benefits now—especially for Rota and Tinian," the delegate added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when sought for comment, said the administration welcomes the enactment of the finally agreed upon farm bill.

He said with the inclusion of funding for the SNAP study, "this is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to have a true gauge on the feasibility of SNAP in the CNMI."

From paper stamp to card

Sablan said the most visible change will be the electronic benefit, or EBT, system. Instead of paper food stamps, people will have plastic debit cards that they can swipe when they buy food. The system is expected to help the CNMI reduce the reselling of paper stamps and

other kinds of fraud that give the program a bad name.

"This will be less costly to administer and it can also reduce the misuse of the benefit," the delegate added.

Sablan said he would like to get the SNAP study "as soon as possible." He is already scheduling a meeting with Audrey Rowe, who heads Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, and with the department's technical staff, who will be in charge of the study.

"There are a number of things I want the study to consider: most importantly, I want to be sure that we do something about getting higher benefits for Rota and Tinian, where food costs are higher. The guiding principle is to make sure that all Americans have the same level of support. That doesn't mean everyone gets the same dollar value of support. It means everyone should be able to obtain the same amount of food. So where

costs are higher, benefits need to be higher," he said.

Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately said yesterday that the newly signed U.S. law will be a big help "to people in the CNMI who are in dire need of assistance." Manglona has long-supported efforts to put the CNMI in the national food stamp program.

"We congratulate Congressman Kilili for successfully inserting a special provision in the national farm bill for the CNMI. I continue to ask our food stamp office to provide an adjustment for Rota and Tinian because the prices of commodities there are much higher than those on Saipan. A study has been completed confirming this but we haven't seen any adjustments yet," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said he also would like to see Agriculture employ local talent in the study.

"Of course, the department will be working with Commu-

nity and Cultural Affairs, which runs the food stamp program now and will keep running it, I assume. But if there are surveys or data collection needed, maybe we can involve [Northern Marianas College] students in some way. I'd like to see students earn some money while they are in school. We'll see," he added.

Local produce

The delegate said he also wants to encourage USDA to look at the local produce issue.

The new farm law has another pilot program that would double the value of food stamps for people who use them at farmers markets, buying locally produced foods.

"That would be great to put into practice in the NMI. It would mean more sales for farmers and more food for families. It may also help with local produce sales at the Garapan Farmers Market presently un-

der renovation using money I earmarked in 2009. Talk about win-win," he said.

The agriculture spending law will spread benefits to farmers in every region of the United States. It expands federal crop insurance but ends the government's direct payments that go to farmers whether they produce anything or not.

The CNMI currently receives a block grant from the federal government for its local food stamp program. The block grant does not change when the number of families getting benefits goes up. Each family just gets less assistance.

In nearby Guam, which is under the national program, benefits are double what they are in the CNMI. When the number of beneficiaries increases, federal funding also goes up.

For example, a family of four in the CNMI gets \$444 a month. But a family of four in Guam gets \$931.

MCS' Guerrero unveils 'Save the Stage' campaign

By THOMAS MANGLONA
CORRESPONDENT

At the school's recent "Night with the Knights" event, Mount Carmel president Galvin Deleon Guerrero unveiled the "Save the Stage" campaign, which proposes to restore the stage where both the CNMI Constitution and Covenant were signed, in time for the school's next Theatre Club production later this year.

"I know it is a few months away and we might not get everything done, but I genuinely have faith," he said. "It is a landmark and it is iconic."

Guerrero and other school officials informed fellow alumni, students, and parents at the event that "baby steps" have already been taken for its restoration as the school has already held its Christmas Pageant and Catholic School's Week celebrations there after nearly a 20-year hiatus.

Guerrero said the stage hosts more than just Christmas programs and concerts. Several athletic events have taken place on the same court many of the AlumKnights played on over six decades ago.

He shared the state of the stage's current condition. "Rust and corrosion has eaten through it and the roof is unusable and dangerous."

He then presented the audience with a six-phase plan that will lead to the full restoration of the historic landmark. Phase one is the removal and demolition of the roof and walls, which will cost \$6,000. Phase two, totaling up to \$44,000,

will construct the new stage and will include electrical, cement work, roof work, and required permitting. Finishing touches, including painting, tiles, final electrical plastering, railings and steel work, gutters, eaves, facias, and an interior work trim, make up phase three and will cost \$9,700. Phase 4 involves installing a removable accordion to enclose the seating area in case of inclement weather and will cost \$16,000. Phase five, totaling up to \$16,000, will focus on insulation for the roof and walls to improve acoustics and provide a comfortable seating area. The final phase is adding air-conditioning for the enclosed area and will cost

\$50,000.

"It is more than just saving the stage. It is about saving the whole cafeteria. It is about saving an icon about the history of MCS and really the history of the CNMI," he said.

Guerrero explained how the founders of the school, Fr. Arnold Bendowski and the Mercedarian sisters, realized that the island did not only need a school but also a prime meeting destination, which led to the construction of the MCS stage where hundreds of community and school events were eventually held.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan said his first time on the stage was several years ago where he performed for his elementary Christmas pageant.

"I remember when they built the auditorium with Pale Arnold. My job was to make

sure the carpenters had nails. During its construction it was not a project for school, it was a project for the entire Saipan community. You had people coming in from the farms and on Saturdays to help, the entire community played a role," he said.

Guerrero said the community must keep in mind that the founders of the school had "nothing. They did not have money, they did not have a bank to get a loan at or apply for any grants."

"Without money they built the stage on sheer faith alone," he added. "It is the faith in you and the vision our founders had 60 years ago that I believe we can do this."



Deleon Guerrero



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Judge denies bid to stop Saipan Air's racketeering suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has denied a motion to stop Saipan Air Inc. from pursuing its \$50-million racketeering lawsuit against three executives of Swift Air LLC.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order Thursday denying a motion for summary judgment filed by Donald A. Stukes, Jeffery Conry, and Boris Van Lier, who assert that Saipan Air Inc. is prevented from going ahead with this lawsuit due to the Chapter 11 reorganization plan of Swift Air Inc.

Manglona ruled that the language of 9.7 section of the reorganization plan is far short of clear enough to alert Saipan Air that by assenting to such a plan it was agreeing to abandon this lawsuit.

The judge said this section of the plan is ambiguous and therefore cannot be the basis to bar Saipan Air's claims.

Manglona said *res judicata* principles do not bar Saipan Air's claims against Stukes, Conry, and Van Lier.

Res judicata doctrine, also known as claim preclusion, bars litigation in a subsequent action of any claims that were raised or could have been

raised in the prior action.

According to court records, the defendants were employees, officers, or advisers of Swift Air, an Arizona corporation. Conry was chief executive officer, Van Lier was director of operations, and Stukes was chief restructuring officer and also an employee of ASI Advisors LLC.

In April 2012, Saipan Air and Swift Air entered into an agreement for Swift Air to provide Saipan Air with aircraft, crew, maintenance, and insurance.

Over the next two months, Saipan Air wired a total of \$1.267 million to Swift Air and provided a \$524,000 letter of credit to secure delivery of an aircraft by July 1, 2012.

On June 21, 2012, Van Lier, acting on behalf of Swift Air, sent a letter to Saipan Air purporting to terminate the agreement. Less than a week later, on June 27, Swift Air filed for bankruptcy in the District of Arizona under Chapter II of the Bankruptcy Code.

In response, Saipan Air took action on two fronts. In Arizona, it actively participated in the bankruptcy case. In the initial filings, Saipan Air was listed as Swift Air's second-

largest unsecured creditor.

Swift Air's chief operating officer, Adam Ferguson, chaired the creditor's committee. On July 8, 2012 Ferguson swore out a declaration in support of its \$1.276 million claim.

Ferguson alleged that a series of broken promises, misrepresentation, and outright lies by Conry, Van Lier, and other agents of Swift Air induced Saipan Air to enter into the agreement.

Around the same time, Saipan Air brought court action in the U.S. District Court for the NMI against the three defendants for fraud, unjust enrichment, and violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act.

The complaint, filed July 12, 2012, alleged that the defendants fraudulently induced Saipan Air to transfer money and other assets to Swift Air.

On Aug. 21, 2013, in the bankruptcy case, Swift Air filed a third amended plan of reorganization. Section 9.7 of the reorganization plan enjoins all persons asserting any claims "against any of the released parties based upon, attributable to, arising out of or relating to any claim against or

equity interest in the debtor" from "commencing or continuing in any manner any action or other proceeding of any kind with respect to any such claims..."

On Oct. 1, 2013, the bankruptcy court entered an order confirming the plan. Saipan Air did not appeal the confirmation plan, and the time for filing notice of appeal expired on Oct. 15, 2013.

In her order denying the defendants' motion, Manglona said even if the injunction applies to the lawsuit, the federal court would not necessarily have the authority to enforce it.

Typically, Manglona said, enforcement authority lies with the court that issued the injunction—in this instance, the Bankruptcy Court of the District of Arizona.

Indeed, she said, the Arizona court expressly retained jurisdiction over the Chapter II case after the plan's effective date.

Nevertheless, Manglona said, the injunction effectively ends this lawsuit if it shows that Saipan Air's claims against the individual defendants have already been settled in the Arizona bankruptcy case.

This result, she said, comes about through application of

the doctrine of claim preclusion, or *res judicata*.

Manglona said claims are precluded when there has been a final judgment on the merits by a court of competent jurisdiction involving the same parties and the same claims.

Unless the applicable provisions of the confirmed plan are clear and unambiguous, "the principles of *res judicata* do not bar [the claim]," Manglona said.

To determine whether section 9.7 of the plan clearly and unambiguously enjoins related claims against the individual defendants, the rule of contract interpretation must be applied, she said.

Manglona said the law of the state in which the plan was confirmed governs the interpretation of plan provisions and therefore, Arizona law governs interpretation of terms of the Swift Air plan.

Defendants assert that under Arizona law, section 9.7 of the plan is not ambiguous.

But Manglona finds this argument unpersuasive.

Manglona said there really is no dispute between the litigants about what "released parties" means: it means parties who are released from liability—in this case, liability on creditors' claims related to the Swift Air bankruptcy.

Manglona said the problem is identifying who the released parties are.

"No dictionary will help settle that question. What is needed is language somewhere within the four corners of the plan either expressly naming each released party or clearly delineating the classes of persons or entities who are released.

"This plan has none," the judge pointed out.

Under Ninth Circuit precedent, Manglona said, the released parties must be clearly identifiable in order for a provision releasing claims to have preclusive effect.

Without guideposts within the plan as to who is and is not within the class of released parties, the meaning cannot be discerned with clarity, she said.

Because the Swift Air plan and confirming order do not identify the released parties, releasing parties, and released claims with any specificity whatsoever, Manglona said it cannot be said with confidence that Saipan Air released its fraud and RICO claims against these individual defendants.

Attorney Steven Pixley is counsel for Saipan Air, while attorney Michael White is representing the defendants.



Manglona



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EA.

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64 OZ.

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3.6 L.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-007

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION FOR WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 7, 2014** to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 30, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-14-007, Island Wide Road Restoration for Waterline Repairs”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 19, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 5, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water-Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than **February 10, 2014**.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

TO: RAMON M. SAKISAT and the ESTATE of FRANCISCA T. SAKISAT:

You are in default in your Promissory Note date October 9, 1985, secured by a Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Mariana Islands Housing Authority, now known as the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) Description of the real property covered by Mortgage:

Lot No. 005 I 523, situated in Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's official Cadastral Plat No. 2084/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 14232 dated May 14, 1982, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage:

October 9, 1985; \$42,000.00

(c) Amount due for principal:

\$8,308.24 as of Feb. 1, 2014

(d) Amount due for interest:

\$23,170.34 as of Feb. 1, 2014

(e) Daily accruing interest:

\$6.35

(f) Late charges

-0-

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$31,478.58 as of February 1, 2014 plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fee, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, you will be in default, and Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this letter dispute the validity of the claim, or any portion thereof, we will assume that it is valid. If you notify us in writing within this thirty (30) day period that the claim, or any portion thereof, is disputed, we will obtain information on the debt and mail you a copy thereof. Upon your written request within this thirty (30) day period, we will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the creditor indicated above.

This letter is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for the purpose.

Ti un komle I kontratan debimu (Promissory Note)ni un fitma gi Oktubre dia 9, 1985, ni afabobot I Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ma asegurao I tano yan guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

(a) i deskripsion tano ni ma empeñen (mortgaged):

Sito numeru 005 I 523, ni gaigi Saipan, Note Marianas ni ha konsiste un aria 748 quadro metro, mas pat menus, ni anak gi Cadastral Plat numeru 2084/82, i orihinat ni ma rehistra gi Land Registry kumu document numeru 14232 gi Mayo dia 14, 1982, guih I deskripsion ni ma incorporate guini ginen I infotmasion.

(b) I kantida yan I fechan este na debi yan empepena:

Oktubre dia 9, 1985; \$42,000.00

(c) Kantida un debi para principat:

\$8,308.24 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014

(d) Kantida un debi para interes:

\$23,170.34 asta ki Febrero 1, 2014

(e) Interes kada dia:

\$6.35

(f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges):

-0-

Yan ti un apasi I kantida na principat, interes, yan I resanable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di I fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komo ti unkomple I kontratamu (default), ya siempre u-matutuhun kontra hago a kausan kotti ni para uma kondena ya uma dendi I propriadat tano'mu ni un empepeña guato gi Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Solo yangin halom trenta (30) dias dispues de un resibe este na kata yan un kontra minagahet-ña pot I apudera sino komo I pattida, siempre bai in hongge an asentadu a apudera. Pago yangin un kattayi ham gi halom este I trenta (30) dias siklo man infototma hao pot I apudera sino komo I pattida para un kontra, pues bai in henta infotmasion pot I dibi-mu dispues un ma kattayi I kopia pot este na de'unta. Anai in resibe I katta-mu gi halom trenta (30) dias siklo, , bai in nai'I hao I na'an yan address I akredot komo ti parehu na akredot ma indika guini hulu.

Este na katta para u ma na 'kesiña ma rikohi I dibi-mu. Maseha hafa na infotmasion ni in resibe pot este na apudera – siña bai in usa para bai in ke-chagi mu rekohi para este I dibi-mu.

Su Seguro Servidor,
/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

Man facing child sexual abuse charge denied TPC

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has denied a motion to release to a third-party custodian a man accused of sexually abusing a minor in front of his girlfriend inside a motel room in San Jose.

Camacho on Thursday denied Parvej Mohamed Barpery's motion to be released to a third-party custodian as the court finds the location of the house on Rota not suitable.

Camacho found that the house of Barpery's uncle, the proposed third-party custodian, is near another residence that has children in it.

Barpery, 44, cried after the court denied his motion. Attorney Daniel Guidotti is counsel for the defendant.

Guidotti asked the court to reduce the \$100,000 cash bail to \$50,250 to reflect the greatly reduced amended information. He asked the court to permit Barpery's release to a third-party custodian upon posting \$2,000 cash.

The Office of the Attorney General recently filed an amended information, charging Barpery with one count of sexual assault in the first degree and one count of disturbing the peace.

The OAG charged Barpery's girlfriend, Daisina Suda, 41, only with one count of disturbing the peace.

Assistant attorney general James McAllister has filed a motion to allow the government to file a second amended information adding a charge of sexual assault in the first degree against Suda.

Suda allegedly allowed Barpery to sexually abuse the 17-year-old girl in front of her inside a motel room in San Jose last year.


Police arrested the two last month.

Police detective Isapen Bokuku stated in her report that police started investigating the incident on Nov. 26 when the Department of Public Safety received a call about a sexual abuse of a minor that occurred in San Jose, Saipan.

Bokuku said that during her interview with the alleged victim on Jan. 8, she said that Barpery sexually abused her in May 2013 when she was just 17 at the San Jose Motel.

Police arrested Suda last New Year's Day for allegedly biting Barpery below the right nipple and chasing him with a knife at their residence in Lower Miha, Garapan. She was temporarily released in that case.

Last September, Suda and Barpery were both arrested after they engaged in a brawl at their house in Garapan. The two pleaded guilty and served prison terms. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 10, 2006

AGO targets govt debtors

The Attorney General's Office is poised to go after government debtors in the hope of recouping millions of dollars for the Commonwealth. Acting Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory said yesterday that the collection of money owed the government is on the AGO's top agenda. "The current priorities of the administration are dealing with the financial situation of the Commonwealth. Obviously, it's difficult to provide public service without enough funding. Our primary goal is to look at past collection issues concerning unpaid debts to the government and violations of the law that resulted in loss of money to the Commonwealth. We will pursue those vigorously," Gregory told the Saipan Tribune.

NMI leaders welcome Northwest's new flights

Government and business officials welcomed yesterday the decision by Northwest Airlines to increase frequency of the carrier's nonstop service between Tokyo and Saipan. Northwest, which currently offers daily Tokyo-Saipan service, will fly the route 10 times weekly beginning April 24, 2006. The additional flights will utilize 430-seat Boeing 747 jumbo jet and will generate 5,160 additional seats from Japan per month. "I am pleased to learn about this good news. The new service will cover some of the seats that we lost when Japan Airlines pulled out. It will allow more tourists to visit the CNMI," said Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development, and Programs.

February 10, 2007

Govt, biz defend status quo

The Fitial administration and the local business sector at least spoke with one voice before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, both insisting that the Commonwealth has a labor and immigration system that works. In separate testimonies at the Senate committee hearing at 12:30am Friday (Saipan time), Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Juan T. Guerrero spoke in defense of the labor and immigration programs currently in place in the CNMI. They also warned the senators of the adverse effects that could result from applying federal labor and immigration laws to the islands.

Ex-US Covenant negotiator says NMI federalization long overdue

Acknowledging his long association with the Marianas going back to World War II, former U.S. chief Covenant negotiator Hadyn Williams expressed strong support for the immediate extension of federal immigration to the CNMI, saying it is both for the best interest of the CNMI people and its economy, as well as the U.S. government in general. Speaking before a U.S. Senate panel hearing yesterday, the bespectacled former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International and Security Affairs in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the U.S. President's Personal Representative for the CNMI Covenant negotiation in the '70s said the CNMI, after 30 years of being allowed to keep its own immigration, continues to lack institutional capacity in this area.

February 10, 2008

2 lawyers' suspension stopped

The CNMI Supreme Court on Friday stopped the suspension of lawyers Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig, who are both counsels for Angel Malite estate administrator Jesus C. Tudela. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo's Jan. 15, 2008 amended order is stayed with respect to the suspension of Yana and Atalig, said the high court's order signed by chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and associate justices Alexandro C. Castro and John A. Manglona.

Chamber president optimistic for 2008

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president James T Arenovski prefers to look at the CNMI economy this 2008 in an optimistic light, saying several recent developments in the business front have proved encouraging. Arenovsky, who is also the president of Delta Management Corp., says he is optimistic about the islands' future despite the upheavals it experienced the past couple of years due to the exit of Japan Airlines and the pullout of the garment industry—once the Commonwealth's bread and butter.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 14-001

Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on January 27, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST), at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-001 Saipan Geothermal Resource Assessment" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 10, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-002 (Rev.1)

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TYPHOON RECOVERY MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials for CUC Power Division, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$80.00 for one IFB package set. Registrants of CUC-IFB-14-002 are exempted from paying the required fee. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 10, 2014** to be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-002(Rev.1), Supply & Delivery of Typhoon Recovery Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 28, 2014** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 12, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alfredo Palattao, Engineer, CUC Power Division via email address alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant, CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-14-009

Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop CUC's Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-range plan that will select the most cost-effective mix of energy resources, both supply-side and demand-side, following a review of commercially available base load and renewable energy alternatives. This project will also include the design and development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for total system power supply, the design and implementation of financial models to be used for comparing both energy supply and renewable power integration options, along with Independent Evaluator (IE) services to develop and administer third-party, technical and financial review of received energy supply proposals, for the purposes of advising the CUC during the energy supply proposal selection process.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 10, 2014 to be considered.

A pre-proposal Conference will be held on **January 28, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**, at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 14-009, Integrated Resource Plan & Energy Supply Analysis" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 26, 2014**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 12, 2014 to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org. Responses to Questions will be provided no later than February 18, 2014.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-14-010

SAN ANTONIO AND GARAPAN SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of sewerline in San Antonio and Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in Garapan and San Antonio area. The project is to replace approximately \pm 1099 LF of existing 8-inch ACP, \pm 887 LF of existing 12-inch ACP, \pm 374 LF of existing 15-inch ACP, existing concrete manhole repairs, 6-inch and 4-inch service laterals connection, wastewater by pass pumping and road restoration. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by February 5, 2014 to be considered.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 31, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-14-010, San Antonio and Garapan Sewerline Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 14, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 05, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Brian Bearden, Senior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address brian.bearden@cucgov.org and Birhen Martinez, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Don't hold immigration reform hostage to electoral politics

House GOP leaders issued a set of standards last week for overhauling U.S. immigration law, but the ink had hardly dried on their one-page summary before conservatives starting pushing back—not against the leadership's ideas but against the idea of doing anything at all on such a controversial issue. Nevertheless, the House should press ahead. Resolving the many problems in the current system will only get harder if it misses the opportunity it has now.

The leadership's standards represent an important shift in two areas. First, having ignored the comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform bill the Senate passed with great fanfare last year, top House Republicans now want to move forward on a wide-ranging set of changes, not just tougher border security. And second, instead of calling on the roughly 11 million immigrants already in the country illegally to "self-deport," they are advocating a path to legalization similar to the Senate's, although without a clear route to citizenship in the future.

The broad outlines are promising. As in the Senate bill, the House standards call for more effective enforcement at the borders and in the workplace, a better system for temporary workers, a path to citizenship for those brought into the country as children, and more visas for highly skilled immigrants. But that's not exactly breaking new ground; thoughtful members from both parties have long agreed on such goals.

The differences are in how the goals would be achieved. The standards suggest that, as a sop to nativist elements in the party, House leaders may seek punitive restrictions on newly legalized residents' ability to seek citizenship. They may also seek to delay other reforms until the borders are secured to some unattainable degree. Both would be serious mistakes, but the only way to tell exactly where the leadership is going is for the House to translate the standards into actual bills and start debating them.

Sadly, the news about the new standards prompted some members of Congress and conservative pundits to cite a laundry list of reasons to abandon the effort. President Obama can't be trusted to enforce the law, some said. Taking up immigration will only divide Republicans and distract voters from the president's failed policies, argued others.

The same could be said about almost any major issue, however, and voters didn't send their representatives to Washington to lie low until the next election. If Republicans want to be the party of jobs and a better economy, there are few better ways to burnish their credentials than to fix a broken immigration system that's a drag on growth. The standards offer a starting point for comprehensive reform that would bring productive immigrants out of the shadows of the underground economy. The Senate has done its part; it's time for the House to get moving.

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Red vs blue: The battle lines of 2014

The conventional wisdom is that this fall's congressional election will be all about Obamacare. Republicans, it's argued, will try to expand their majority in the House and take the Senate with a campaign focused mostly on the failings of President Obama's health insurance law; Democrats will fire back with warnings that the GOP would simply repeal the law and leave consumers on their own.

But the conventional wisdom is wrong. Obamacare will be a major issue this fall, but so will the economy and a host of other issues, including immigration and—if Democrats have their way—pay equity for women. Over the last two weeks, leaders of both parties have staked out new ground on which they plan to fight in the nine months until Election Day.

Let's take the Republicans first. They still hope to make the election a referendum on Obama, which makes sense given the president's low job-approval ratings. But they're going after more than just Obamacare.

"It wasn't Obamacare that made it possible for us to win in 2010," noted David Winston, a GOP pollster who has advised House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio. "It was the economy."

That's why Boehner recently revived a mantra he uttered over and over during the 2010 campaign: "Where are the jobs?"

"In every poll, the biggest issue for most voters is the economy and jobs," Winston said. And, he added, many voters who once blamed George W. Bush for the recession now blame Obama for the sluggish recovery.

Republicans will also campaign against Obamacare, of course, but if Boehner and other GOP leaders have their way, they'll go beyond merely calling for the health law's repeal. "There needs to be a Republican alternative," Winston said.

Three GOP senators have already proposed a conservative health insurance plan that resembles Obamacare in some respects but on a far smaller scale, covering fewer people, offering smaller subsidies and providing only a partial guarantee of coverage for preexisting conditions.

The reason for the shift in strategy is easy to see. Even though Obamacare is widely unpopular, polls show that a solid majority of voters don't want to repeal the law entirely; they'd rather fix it instead.

Besides, Boehner and his lieutenants are also hoping to free the House GOP from the image of obstructionism it earned last fall, when tea party conservatives forced the federal government to close for 16 days in an abortive attempt to ban funding for the healthcare plan. That episode drove the GOP's popularity to an all-time low. The futile exercise of voting to repeal Obamacare again and again didn't help either.

"It's a different (Republican) conference now," Winston said. "The shutdown taught everyone some lessons. The question now is, how do we move things forward so we can offer voters a credible alternative?"

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.



As for the Democrats, they face an uphill battle in their struggle to win back a majority in the House and retain their majority in the Senate.

They can't run on the state of the economy, since most voters aren't convinced that the recovery is durable.

Indeed, when Obama argued in his State of the Union address that the economy was improving, even some of his supporters were unimpressed.

But Obama's speech offered a preview of several other themes likely to figure in Democrats' pitches to voters this fall: an increase in the federal minimum wage, more federal aid to education and a focus on women's issues.

Democratic strategists hope Obama's call for an increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour will be a "wedge issue" that divides the Republican opposition. Polls show the proposal is not only immensely popular among Democrats; it's also supported by about half of Republican voters.

Education is another issue on which many GOP voters are torn. That's why Obama spent much of the last week campaigning for his education initiatives, including a project to provide high-speed Internet connections to most schools.

And Obama spent a big chunk of his State of the Union speech calling for new legislation to discourage wage discrimination against women, a proposal with few prospects of passing either the House or the Senate.

But that demand, Democratic strategists said, wasn't aimed at persuading Congress to pass legislation; it was aimed at reminding women, a key part of the Democratic electorate, that conservative Republicans are standing in their way.

"One factor we're counting on is that, at some point, the Huckabees will come out," said one Democratic advisor. He was referring to former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee's dismissal of women who wanted contraceptive coverage in health-care plans because "they cannot control their libido without the help of the government."

That wouldn't be the most elegant way for the president's party to hold on to its majority in the Senate. "But it's happened in the past," the strategist said, noting the GOP candidates who self-destructed in 2010 and 2012.

Besides, whoever said American politics was elegant?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Obamacare on life-support

Appalling that legislative committees on health never lifted a finger to explore if Obamacare is good and healthy for the NMI. Obama's signature law, if you will, is now under life-support system, having failed grandly since its rollout days several months ago. It has denied health coverage to millions of people across the country while destroying more jobs ahead.

Nobamacare came out with good intentions. But the unintended consequences started showing its ugly faces when it became obvious that the scheme is to bump off the young and healthy from their private health insurance coverage and move them into exchanges under Nobamacare. In other words, it is so designed to saddle them with higher premiums in order to support expenses of seniors in the system. Why should they when they can't even pay for money owed their credit cards?

Would the health industry eventually move in for crony capitalism too?

Here at home, the effect of the 40 percent increase in health premiums rendered some retirees negative pay—nothing's left after the new rate kicked in. Many have pulled out of the program in order to save what's left for familial obligations. How many of them would qualify for Medicaid when they are right above the federal definition of poverty level income?

Perhaps this is why the chime for more self-government, so leadership could bankrupt everything like it did with the NMI retirement program. What crown jewel! How much longer must we endure the product of the elected elite who's decided to bask in mediocrity? It's just the tip of the iceberg and the larger mass of this creature would emerge as we march to the vote count down this November.

Immigration: Effects on economy

It seems leadership is snoozing as federal immigration threatens closure of the service industry. It has already completely shut down manufacturing here in recent past. It's federal immigration policy uncertainty that would further adversely disintegrate a fragile local economy as though power rates haven't done its share of destruction already.

tion already.

Legislative committees need to employ greater agility reviewing this policy issue, including realistic alternative energy to reduce power rates. Sleeping on the job only serves the ego of legislators while its indecisions and inactions rob "we the people" what's left in the family purse or pocketbooks. It's appalling the grand sense of apathy upstairs!

Shall we hear some words of wisdom from the head of the House Committee on PUTC, Rep. Lorenzo "Larry" Deleon Guerrero? Or is inaction a simple legislative complicity fanning the fire of incompetence at CUC?

Are political pundits like Rep. Trenton Conner and Sen. Francisco Cruz on the ball to probe the effects of U.S. immigration to the hilt? Could they do it with the view to resolving the anomalous relationship that evolved from it? Snoozing won't bring forth clarity on the predatory effects of U.S. immigration law. It's all about the economic future of the CNMI, true?

The usual simple apprehension would be woefully insufficient. Nor would presumptuous knowledge of fact suffice in bringing home clarity and understanding. It would require knowledge of reasoned facts from A-Z or mega-analysis. Only then would both sides benefit from answering with honesty whether the imposition of U.S. immigration was necessary. Am I making sense?

There are military plans that would need additional land outside what's in the agreement. Are you up to the job exploring what the plans entail? Is there room anywhere in these plans that include assimilation of both communities? If so, what are these plans? Would it include defraying facilities outside the gate? I'd be treading your progress on this matter.

Laughter with Santa '14

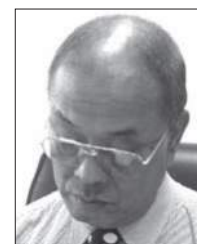
There's a lot of room to poke fun at incumbents seeking re-election this year. I mean it's good for casual conversation and watch them grope for words or dillydally with every excuse they've already depleted from their bag of tricks.

If you wish to quickly derail their mind, ask for academic competency (college credentials) and professional experience. The first

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



part would send them reeling for answers they can't find. The second part is a tale of experience so irrelevant to the task of policy-making. No wonder the disconnection and obvious lack of perception on issues of substance.

Take 'em on a trip on economics and fiscal issues, specifically, stimulus measures that would neutralize any further assault against the family purse. I'm sure most would revert to groping for words for chancing an explanation they have no clue about. If they're sufficiently edgy or cornered in humiliation, leave them alone so they find some breathing room to regroup. There's serious doubt though they'll ever recover. Quiz 'em about debts and deficit of more than \$600 million.

Most importantly, quiz our men of wisdom if it is right to saddle the young people with "generational loan", i.e., pension obligation bond that would deny them their economic freedom? Why force our young folks into ill-conceived loan schemes they know nothing about? Is this their vision of the future of our young people—saddle them with debts?

The people of these isles yearn for leadership (not follower-ship) and if in recent past you haven't done anything of substance to move the needle of misery in abject poverty forward, don't you think you've literally sealed your own self-inflicted political doom? What else is here other than a regurgitation of failed promises of recent past? Don't you think we are equipped with sound mind to dissect the deepening hardship hailing from your negligence and ineptitude? Is this why I thought I heard Santa somewhere nearby with a huge laughter in his energy-filled tummy?

No more Mr. Nice Putin

Vladimir Putin has been on his best behavior as the Sochi Olympic Games approach. He has granted amnesty to prisoners and political opponents, downplayed Russia's anti-gay law, lifted a blanket prohibition on demonstrations at Sochi and acted the welcoming host. The Olympics are a showcase for Russia and for him personally. He wants nothing to spoil the Games.

The Sochi Olympics will come and go, and the less kind, less gentle Putin will be back. He is likely to turn attention to Russia's neighbors that drew closer to the European Union last year—to punish them and to try to drag them back into Moscow's fold. Moldova and Georgia are prime targets, having initialed agreements with the EU in November. If a settlement of Ukraine's current crisis eventually puts it back on track to sign its association agreement with the EU, that country also will find itself in Putin's cross hairs. Washington and the European Union must consult and agree on a joint strategy in anticipation of such a development.

Putin does not want to re-create the Soviet Union. He wants deference from neighboring states. He knows that EU association agreements would pull states from Moscow's economic and geopolitical orbit. Keeping them in requires leverage. In past disputes with neighbors, Russia has used natural gas price increases and cutoffs, embargoed key imports and stoked inter-ethnic tension as a means of pressure or simply as payback.

Each of the potential target countries has significant vulnerabilities.

Moldova remains dependent on Russia for natural gas. Many Moldovans work in Russia, remitting their pay back home. Moscow could move to recognize Transnistria, Moldova's breakaway eastern region, or exploit the coming Moldovan parliamentary elections to support candidates opposed to deepening links with Europe.

Georgia has already borne the brunt of Russian displeasure, including trade embargoes, visa suspensions and military con-

flict in 2008. Moscow recognized Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia and constructed border installations. With Russian forces in both, Moscow could provoke border incidents to weaken the government in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital.

Ukraine presents a special case. Late last year, President Viktor Yanukovich put his European ambitions on ice in return for a \$15-billion economic bailout and a lower gas price from Russia.

Putin is no fool. Yanukovich has been rented, not bought. Moscow is doling out its credits in pieces and reviewing the gas price on a quarterly basis. Putin understands that significant forces within Ukraine want to sign the already initialed EU association agreement. If a genuine dialogue gets underway in Kiev to end the crisis, a negotiated settlement could put the country back on its European course.

If that happens, Moscow would play hardball. With Yanukovich's government looking shaky after months of protests and the Jan. 28 resignation of the prime minister and Cabinet, Moscow put its bailout on hold last week, with Putin saying the Russians would wait to see who would make up the new Cabinet. The Russians could boycott Ukrainian imports and turn off the flow of gas (as they did in 2006 and 2009) if Ukraine again moves to sign the association agreement. More ominously, the Kremlin could seek to weaken the Ukrainian state's coherence, for example, by stirring tension in Crimea, which has a large concentration of ethnic Russians and hosts a sizable part of the Russian Black Sea fleet.

Many of these actions would violate Russia's commitments as a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the World Trade Organization. Any of these actions pose a challenge to the foreign policies of the EU and the Obama administration. Both have taken the position that Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine have the freedom to choose their own foreign policy course as sovereign states.

The U.S. government must coordinate with the EU on several measures to prepare for a "rogue" Russian course in the

By FIONA HILL AND STEVEN PIFER

Los Angeles Times

Fiona Hill and Steven Pifer are senior fellows at the Brookings Institution in Washington. Hill is a former National Intelligence Council officer for Russia and Eurasia, and Pifer is a former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. This op-ed draws from their essay in Brookings' Big Bets & Black Swans: A Presidential Briefing Book.



neighborhood:

■ Send joint messages to Moscow stressing Western support for the right of Russia's neighbors to make their own choices.

■ Commit to high-level political visits to bolster the target countries. Secretary of State John F. Kerry's December visit to Moldova sent a useful political signal.

■ Target U.S. assistance to support the EU association agreements and their implementation and to help Moldova and Ukraine strengthen their energy security.






■ Encourage the International Monetary Fund to consider more generous programs for Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine if Russia applies serious economic pressure (providing they also undertake real economic reforms).

This is first and foremost the EU's issue. Washington must stay in sync with the European Union. Helping the Europeans stay on point avoids introducing a competitive U.S.-Russia dynamic that would undermine the effort. Moreover, in some areas, the EU may have more leverage. For example, threats of asset freezes or visa restrictions from Washington would cause concern in Moscow, but the real pain would come if the EU adopted such stiff penalties. Washington and Brussels should move in lock-step to maximize the effect of their messages and actions.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

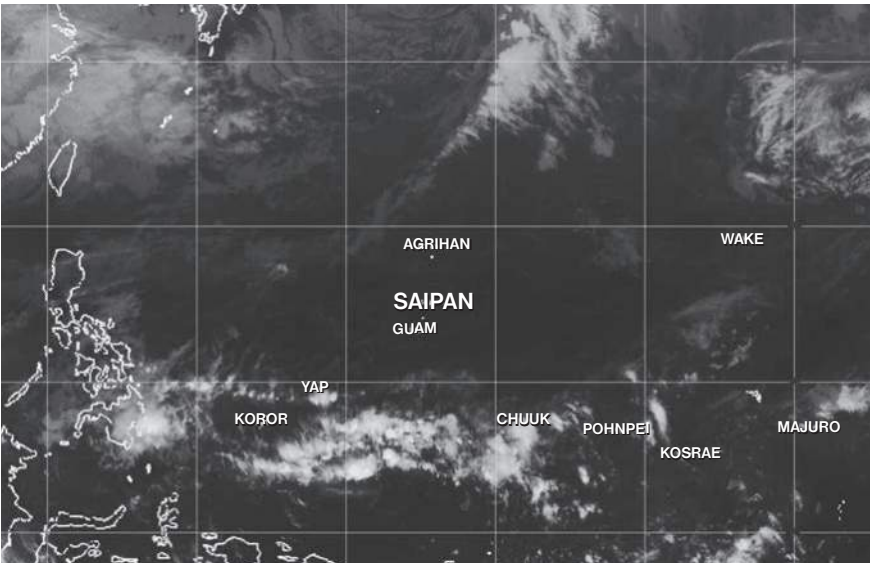
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 73 ▼ 64
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 39 ▼ 17
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 49
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 50
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 73
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 60
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 67
New York	Sunny	▲ 31 ▼ 15
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 35
Paris	Showers	▲ 47 ▼ 34
Pusan	Windy	▲ 46 ▼ 36
Rome	Rain	▲ 52 ▼ 51
Salem	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 37 ▼ 23
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 41 ▼ 31
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 38 ▼ 21

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:04 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2014

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N148E to 19N141E to beyond 18N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain northwest of the Marianas are along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from southeast of Koror and Yap eastward to the Chuuk area within 150 miles of a line from 5N134E to 6N153E. A surface trough just northeast of Pohnpei is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 75 miles of 8N161E. Trade-wind convergence is also triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from near Majuro to the date line or east of a line from 4N178E to 8N171E to 12N177E. Low pressure is centered near 25N175E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of a line from 16N177E to 18N177E and northeast of a line from 23N178E to 25N175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:31 PM	2:51 AM
Tuesday	3:19 PM	3:38 AM
Wednesday	4:08 PM	4:23 AM
Thursday	4:56 PM	5:07 AM
Friday	5:45 PM	5:48 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 25, 2014

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily UA5068 8:40am 9:30am Daily UA5039 1:35pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota UA5038 2:20pm 3:10pm 2, 3, 6 UA5078 6:05pm 6:55pm Daily UA5072 9:50pm 10:40pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily UA5071 7:15am 8:05am Daily UA5039 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5038 12:10pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6 via Rota UA5077 4:45pm 5:35pm Daily UA5079 8:30pm 9:20pm Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) UA5039 1:35pm 2:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) UA5038 12:10pm 12:45pm 2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) UA5039 2:40pm 3:10pm 1, 4, 5, 7	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5038 1:15pm 1:50pm 2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL297 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:55pm 1:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ102 2:20am 5:50am 3 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ6063 3:30am 7:20am 4, 7 (will increase eff Jan 29) DZ104 2:00pm 5:30pm 6 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN DZ101 8:30am 2:00pm 3 OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily DZ103 7:30pm 1:00am+1 6 OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 OZ6053 9:10pm 2:30am+1 3, 6 (will increase eff Jan 29)
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU764 4:00am 8:00am 1, 5	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU763 7:20pm 3:00am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5070/191 4:15am 9:05am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/473 6:00am 10:55pm Daily via NRT UA5068/PR111 8:40am 4:45pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:30pm 5 via Guam UA5039/183 1:35pm 9:50pm 1, 4, 7 via Guam UA5038/183 2:20pm 9:30pm 2 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5078/183 6:05pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily PR110/UA5072 7:35am 5:35pm 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM DL172/288 7:45am 1:30am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 9:55am 5:35pm 2, 7 via Guam UA190/5079 10:00am 5:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA184/5071 10:55pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 8:05am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5068/179 8:40am 10:35pm 1, 5 via GUM UA5038/179 2:20pm 10:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ724/605 1:50pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:10pm 8:05am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-TIANJIN (TSN) D2884 10:45am 2:45pm Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24	TIANJIN (TSN)-SAIPAN D2885 4:45pm 12:20am+1 Jan 25, 30, Feb 4, 9, 14, 24
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) D2880 4:30pm 8:00pm Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27	HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN D2881 10:00pm 5:15am+1 Jan 28, Feb 2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27
SAIPAN-WUHAN (WUH) D2882 11:00am 3:15pm Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26	WUHAN (WUH)-SAIPAN D2883 5:15pm 12:20am+1 Jan 27, Feb 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

House OKs non-general obligation bond issuance bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a heated debate that went on even during a short session break, the House of Representatives passed late Thursday afternoon a bill amending the Commonwealth Development Authority Act of 1984 to allow issuance of bonds other than general obligation bonds at a time when the CNMI is preparing to float a pension obligation bond of \$60 million to \$80 million. This is much lower than the \$300 million limit allowed by law.

House Bill 18-170 passed by a vote of 13-4 at 4:57pm Thursday.

This was among the major pieces of legislation passed that day, besides a legislative initiative extending leases of public lands from the current maximum 40 years to 99 years for persons of Northern Marianas descent, as well as a revenue-generating bill cutting income tax rebate from 90 percent to 70 percent at the highest level of rebate with proportional reduction at the lower levels.

Those who voted “no” to HB 18-170 or the CDA bond bill were Reps. Antonio Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), and George Camacho (R-Saipan).

Absent were Reps. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan) and vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), who left the session early. Tebuteb and Sablan were in Palau that day.

The members debated Rep. Mario Taitano’s (Ind-Saipan) bill after hearing from CDA’s Manny Sablan and Oscar Camacho, along with CDA counsel Vicente Salas.

But the debate also included HB 18-71, also by Taitano, amending the pension obligation bond law or Public Law 18-12, “to provide for the issuance of bonds other than general obligation bonds and acknowledge the existence of an actuarial determination of the unfunded liability of the Commonwealth government to the Retirement Fund.”

House members debated whether the government can afford to float a bond, how much it can afford to float at this time, and whether the bill they are discussing would contradict the pension obligation bond bill they passed and became law authorizing up to \$300 million in pension obligation bond to pay Retirement Fund obligations.

Rep. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) expressed concern about floating a bond, saying that Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson was earlier quoted as saying that the government cannot afford to float another bond. But Benavente voted “yes” to the bill later.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), right, looks on during a debate on bills at the House of Representatives session on Thursday. Among the bills passed is one that amends the Commonwealth Development Authority Act of 1984 to allow issuance of bonds other than general obligation bonds.

the Finance secretary’s statement was taken out of context, because she was only responding to a question about whether the government can float a bond to pay for land compensation, which has nothing to do with the pension obligation bond or the bills being discussed.

At one point, Yumul said the bills as proposed could allow for the use of bond proceeds to pay for land compensation, which he said is not the purpose of the POB bill passed and signed last year.

The speaker said Yumul’s statements may be misleading but after the debate got heated, the speaker called for a short recess.

When the speaker and other members went back to the chamber—but still off air—the speaker apologized to Yumul. The speaker also apologized

to other members he may have offended.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), however, summed it up when he said HB 18-170 is only to amend a section of the CDA law “to try to get the best bond deal for the CNMI” and it does not have to do with how much will be floated later.

“At some point in the process, after working with bond underwriters, they would come up with a bond amount that would be affordable to the CNMI. And at that point, the administration and Legislature would be afforded the opportunity to sit down with CDA and say ‘okay these are the options.’ At that point I think a decision would be made how much we can afford, how much we can pledge,” Sablan said.

The House Ways and Means Committee chairman said it is

obvious that the CNMI cannot afford to float a \$300 million pension obligation bond “so I think this is just to try to help CDA do its work to get to the point where [there’s] determination how much we can afford to float.”

Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier asked lawmakers to amend both the pension obligation bond law and the CDA Act before the CNMI could proceed with floating a bond worth “anywhere between \$60 million and \$80 million.”

The House, however, didn’t act on HB 18-71 before adjourning the session at past 5pm Thursday.

Other bills passed

The House also passed on Thursday the speaker’s HB 18-69, House Substitute 1, reducing income tax rebate. It passed by a vote of 14-3 with one vot-

ing “present” and two absences.

Deleon Guerrero’s bill cuts income tax rebate from 90 percent to 70 percent at the highest level of rebate with proportional reduction at the lower levels.

It then appropriates the revenues from Chapter 7 tax to the NMI Retirement Fund’s defined benefit plan members.

The Ways and Means Committee, which reviewed and recommended the amended bill’s passage, said reducing the 90 percent rebate will provide the CNMI with instant revenue for two fiscal years.

The Ways and Means Committee said funds collected under this proposal will directly assist in the payment of the 25 percent deferred retiree pension under the Retirement Fund settlement agreement.

Under the bill, the reduction in the rebate will take effect on Jan. 1, 2014, and be in effect for two years.

If the bill does not become law prior to Jan. 1, 2014, the Act will take effect on Jan. 1, 2015.

The House also passed on Thursday Senate Bill 18-4, to require all commercial wireless service providers to produce wireless service coverage maps readily available for consumers. The bill passed by a vote of 17-0 and now goes to the governor for action.

House members also passed by a vote of 17-0 SB 18-30 Senate Substitute 1, reducing utilities reconnection fee from \$60 to \$25 for residential consumers and \$75 for commercial consumers, among other things.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP14-HSEM-032**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2014 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**“INSTALLATION AND PROVISION OF AN ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM FOR
THE CNMI’S COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT SUSUPE, SAIPAN”**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, ON FEBRUARY 13, 2014, AT THE CNMI’S COURTHOUSE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN MP 96950. ALL PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS THAT DO NOT HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE WILL BE CONSIDERED NON-RESPONSIVE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SOLICITATION.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,	: CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,	: NO. 13-0238
-v-	:
MATTHEW A. OOKA and RITA M. OOKA,	: Defendants.

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff’s attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated January 23, 2014 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Thomas G. Lambert
P.O. Box 505432
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 235-1139, 287-8633

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

In The Matter Of) FCD AD
The Adoption Of:) CIVIL ACTION
) NO. 14-0033
Jessica Gail B. Lambert)
Minor Child,) NOTICE OF
By:) HEARING
Thomas and Warlita Lambert)
Petitioners)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 24, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room, San Jose, Tinian, MP.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Reports**
 - a. Chair’s Report
 - b. Executive Director’s Report
- IV. Unfinished Business**
- V. New Business**
 - a. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
 - b. Casino Service Industry License
 - i. Transactional Permit - Silver Heritage Limited
 - c. TDHC Casino Employee License Applications
 - d. Minimum Technical Standards
- VI. Executive Session**
- VII. Miscellaneous/ Administrative Matters**
- VIII. Adjournment**

*Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

*Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
Saipan, As Terleje Campus
Tel: 234-5498 Fax: (670) 235-7601

**PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
“USED VEHICLES”
NMC-PAN 14-001**

This is to inform the general public that Northern Marianas College (NMC) will be conducting a One Day Sealed Bid Auction on NMC ROTA. The auction will be held on Tuesday, February 25th, 2014 at the NMC ROTA Instructional Site, building B.

Bids submission is due not later than 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 25th, 2014. Any bids received after 9:00 a.m. will not be accepted. Bid Opening will start at 1:00 p.m.

The auction shall be made individually. Minimum bids are set for the vehicles. All vehicles are sold “As Is” and “Where Is” and without Warranty. The bidders is required to pay 20% down payment in US Currency in the form of a check made payable to the Northern Marianas College. Funds or checks will be returned to unsuccessful bidders. Balance shall be payable within two (2) calendar days from auction closing date, failure to pay will result in the forfeiture of the down payment. Payment shall be in Cashier Check or Money Order payable to NMC.

The used vehicles may be inspected at the NMC, Rota Instructional Site by contacting Ms. Evelyn Mendiola at telephone number (670) 532-9477 and/or Robert Suzuki (670) 234-5498 Ext 6823/4 Fax (670) 235-7601 or email robert.suzuki@marianas.edu or anita.camacho@marianas.edu to get information and instructions.

Interested individuals must register and pick up a NMC Sealed Bid Form at NMC Rota, Rota Instructional Site commencing 9:00AM, Wednesday January 29, 2014.

ss/ Anita Camacho
Procurement Property Manager

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP: RFP14-HSEM-056

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2014 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“AIRCONDITIONING REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY – EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER”**

Copies of the RFP packet may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held at 9:00 a.m., local time, on February 12, 2014, at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. All prospective offerors that do not have a representative in attendance will be considered non-responsive to the requirements of this solicitation.

The CNMI government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Marvin K. Seman
Special Assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management

/S/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

11-year old wins big bucks at PIC Duck Race

» 9.5K to go to
NMI Cancer
Association

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Eleven-year-old Donovan Guerrero's rubber duck, labeled duck 197, was the first of 2,500 other ducklings to cross the finish line in the Pacific Islands Club's Duck Race for Cancer at the San Antonio landmark's Lazy River last Saturday.

Guerrero bagged \$2,500 in cold hard cash, although he was not in attendance at the duck race itself.

According to Duck Race director Glenn Policare, the event raised a total of \$9,500 for the Commonwealth Cancer Association, after subtracting the costs of the event.

"To sell 2,500 ducks in this economy is absolutely mind-blowing!" he said. "We have



PHOTOS BY THOMAS A. MANGLONA

A little girl grabs as many ducks as she can to bring home after Pacific Islands Clubs Duck Race for Cancer.

huge support from the people of Saipan and it is great to have everyone out here."

Policare shared that 10 other countries across the globe also held similar events.

Tinian's Dr. James Toskas, his wife Joseline, and their two children attended the event for their first time. "We tried to buy ducks but they were sold out,"

he said. "I think this is so fun and a great idea to raise money for charity. They should have more ducks!"

The 5th Annual Duck Race also featured a Human Duck Race that outfitted 24 participants with beaks, caps, goggles, fins, and life jackets. In order to be considered as a final finisher the contestants had to cross the finish



Swimmers struggle to keep up with each other during the Human Duck Race at the Pacific Islands Club last Saturday.

line with their beak still on their noses after swimming one lap around the PIC Lazy River.

Kento Akimaru, David Boyer, and Lennosuke Suzuki of Saipan

Swim Club were the first to cross the finish line and earned bragging rights as well as a team building award from PIC.

Saipan resident Sid Mostalas

also brought his family to the event last Saturday and said it was "a good opportunity to bring family together and help out the Cancer Association."



Tourists and locals take photos and videos of the Human Duck Race.



PIC Club Mates stand by the finish line to draw the first three rubber duck finishers.



Duck Race coordinator Glenn Policare presents to the audience the winning duck purchased by 11-year-old Donovan Guerrero.



Human Duck Race top 3 finishers, from left, Lennosuke Suzuki, Kento Akimaru, and David Boyer smile after successfully completing one lap around the PIC Lazy River.



The 5th annual Duck Race for Cancer at the PIC, San Antonio.

Inos hints at keeping Fletcher on as CUC chief

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite calls to fire Commonwealth Utilities Corp.’s executive director Alan Fletcher, the Executive Branch seems inclined to keep him at his post.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos conveyed this in an interview Friday at

the Northern Marianas College, where he witnessed the announcement of the college reaffirmation of its accreditation.

Early this month, a resolution was filed at the House of Representatives recommending Fletcher’s removal. The legislation cited as reason the official’s “poor record of

Proposed constitutional change to cap annual budget at \$104.32M

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying that it’s about time the government pay its obligations, retire its deficit and right-size it, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) pre-filed Friday a proposed constitutional change to cap the annual government budget at \$104.32 million and require any surplus revenue collected to pay for retirement fund obligations such as the settlement agreement and restoration of 25-percent pension cut, as well as land compensation.

“It’s time to take seriously the liabilities of this government,” Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

If Manglona’s Senate Legislative Initiative 18-3 passes the Senate and House, it will then be presented to voters.

Voters would then have to decide whether or not they want a cap on the budget so that anything in excess of \$104.32 million would be used for Retirement Fund-related obligations and land compensation “until all government debts are paid in full.”

A trust account will also be established for any surplus funds under the initiative.

The fiscal year 2013 budget was \$114.32 million, but

deducting the \$10 million set-aside for the Retirement Fund at the time, the amount becomes \$104.32 million, which is the cap that Manglona is proposing.

He said at the time, that amount was sufficient to cover government operational expenses.

“The government should be restricted from increasing its operation expenditures until such time that the retirees’ pensions are restored to 100 percent as required by law,” Manglona said in his initiative.

The fiscal year 2014 budget went up to \$123.4 million, but the money set aside for the Fund was doubled to \$20 million. However, the government needs at least \$5 million more to meet the minimum guaranteed payment of \$25 million to the Fund settlement agreement for fiscal 2014. The government’s annual payment increases until it peaks at \$45 million in fiscal 2018. After that, the amount starts to decrease.

Manglona said the CNMI has been experiencing an increase in revenue because of increased number of tourist arrivals the past three years. However, its obligations related to the Fund and land compensation, among other things, continue to mount.

performance” at the utilities agency.

“I think we really need to dwell on that thing—performance. We haven’t had extreme power outages [for some years now]. So which performance are we talking about? If that performance reflects on Mr. Fletcher, how can that be negative [on him]?” asked the governor.

Inos said he has yet to see the resolution calling for Fletcher’s termination. Once he gets the

chance, he said he will take a look at the legislative findings behind the proposal.

But for now, “I don’t really want to go into that thing.”

Inos pointed out that Fletcher applied for the post when it was announced and was among the candidates on the shortlist.

“We open up the position and he applied, among others. He was shortlisted, his name was passed on to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and EPA had no problem [hir-

ing him],” said Inos.

He said EPA maintains stringent qualifications and requirements for the executive director position, along with deputy director and chief financial officer.

Based on his résumé, Fletcher is a professional utility manager with approximately 30 years experience in water and wastewater operations, regulatory compliance, capital and strategic planning, and financing. Prior to serving

CUC, he worked at the Manchester Water District of Manchester in Washington; the port of Manchester; at the Clackamas River Water Authority of Clackamas in Oregon; and for the Clairmont Water District of Oregon City.

Fletcher was first hired at CUC in February 2011 as deputy executive director and administrator of the water and wastewater division. He was the acting executive director for quite some time.

Maratita: SDLLC should be declared persona non grata

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan) urged her colleagues late yesterday afternoon to adopt a resolution declaring Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC persona non grata, over what she describes as SDLLC’s continued attempts to make dealings with the CNMI after the botched sole-source, secretive \$190.8-million power purchase agreement that was one of the reasons leading to the impeachment charges against former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Maratita said SDLLC is “mistaken to think that the people of the Commonwealth are stupid,” urging more vigilance in dealing with SDLLC.

In a later interview, she said SDLLC “wanted to cheat the people of the Commonwealth by entering into a sole-source power purchase agreement that has a no-default clause.”

“We support foreign investors but we do not want fly-by-night investors, those like SDLLC that want to take advantage of the CNM and its people. SDLLC has the audacity to try to milk the already ailing CNMI,” Maratita

said, adding that she is drafting the resolution.

Persona non grata is a Latin term that literally means “an unwelcome person,” a legal term used in diplomacy indicating a proscription against a foreign person entering or remaining in the country.

Maratita, the original force behind a taxpayers’ lawsuit against the 25-year, \$190.8-million PPA between SDLLC and Fitial, earlier said the recent court order finding the PPA void from the beginning is “a victory for the people of the Commonwealth.”

Superior Court Associate

Judge David A. Wiseman said Fitial, as governor in 2012, did not have the authority to suspend Commonwealth Utilities Corp. procurement regulations and that the PPA that Fitial entered with Delaware-based SDLLC was void *ab initio*.

SDLLC, meanwhile, sued CUC in federal court over the voided PPA.

Maratita said yesterday she received information that SDLLC representatives continue to visit Saipan.

“The latest I gathered is that they were here either in January or December,” Maratita added.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(This ad is paid for by NMHC.)

OPENING DATE: FEBURARY 10, 2014
CLOSING DATE: MARCH 7, 2014 TIME: 4:30 PM

SALARY RANGE IS GRADE LEVEL 33, STEP 01
AT \$26,131.390 TO STEP 05 AT \$31,757.680

“ROTA FIELD OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE”

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC’s employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhc.gov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) Housekeeping Cleaner
Responsible for cleaning and tidying in the hotel bedrooms. Do domestic required including changing and replenishing the bathroom. Check the general condition of the room and notify the housekeeping supervisor of any malfunction or damage. Responsible for the linen and equipment supplied for his/her use ensuring that brand standard and procedures are applied. Clean hallways, lobbies, lounge, restrooms, corridors, elevators and stairways as assigned. Clean rugs, carpets, upholstered furniture and draperies using vacuum cleaner and shampooers. Dust and polish furniture and equipment.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year prior cleaning experience in a large building such as hotel or hospital is highly preferred. Must be able to lift and carry up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Attention to detail working carefully within the minimum time is essential. Must have good stamina and can stand on feet throughout work duty. Can work a flexible schedule including back-to-back, weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Laundry Worker
Responsible for keeping linens in pristine condition such as towels, wash cloths and sheets. Also responsible for laundry and dry cleaning services to hotel guests.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 6 months to 1 year work experience as a laundry worker is preferred. Must be able to lift and push up to 30 pounds without any assistance. Must be able to stand on feet for long periods of time. Must be able to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights and holidays.

(2) Waiter/Waitress
Take orders from customers and in-house guests at Resort’s restaurant outlets. Serve food and beverage to patrons at tables. Check with customers to ensure that they are enjoying their meals and take appropriate action to correct any problems. Clear tables or counters after patrons have finished dining.
Qualification Requirement: High School graduate or equivalent. 3 to 6 months work experience as wait staff is preferred. Must have strong customer service skills. Must be able to work flexible schedule including week-ends, nights and holidays.

Application forms may be obtained from Fiesta Resort & Spa’s security office located in the South Wing. Please submit your applications to our security office by the dead-line February 14, 2014 to be considered.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work-related experience in insurance financial management and payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and payroll management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, Geniisys and MS Word and Excel software. Payroll accountant must possess experience in electronic processing of timesheets, allotments, and standard and government deductions. Must be able to work under time pressure and flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Insurance Company Ltd. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, February 21, 2014.

Century Insurance Company Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

PRADA
TRS SAIPAN
Travel Retail Stores
DFS Galleria

Is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

SALES ASSOCIATE

Qualified individual will report to the Store Manager and must possess the following:

1 year minimum luxury retail experience required
Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Korean language preferred
Excellent Customer Service skills
Ability to work flexible hours
Commitment to complete required training programs
High school graduate or GED equivalent

We offer attractive remuneration package to commensurate with qualifications and experience. For consideration, please apply in person or forward your detailed resume to:

TRS SAIPAN
PRADA Boutique
DES Galleria, Beach Road
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel 233-5009 • Fax 233-5008

Deadline for submission of application or resume is February 17, 2014.

Successful candidates must submit to Drug & Alcohol Test
Police and Court Clearance required with submission of application.
We arc an EEO Employer

Operation Homefront Support

Photos by AMERICAN RED CROSS-NMI CHAPTER



Operation Homefront Support coordinators receive a check from Hyatt staff, Jan. 29, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



Seventh Day Adventist staff donate hygiene products to Operation Homefront Support in November.



Jon Bargfrede, second from right, on behalf of Bank of Saipan, donates a check to support Operation Homefront Support carepackages.



I Love Saipan staff donate shirts in support of Operation Homefront Support.



Staff of Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe, provide Operation Homefront Support coordinators with rice crackers and mini CNMI flags to be shipped out to U.S. service members of the NMI.



Galvin Guerrero, third from left, along with Mt. Carmel students show their support to Operation Homefront by collecting canned goods and letters from students and their families.



Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc., provides lanyards and bottle openers for Operation Homefront Support.



Nola Hix, center, of Xerox, provides a donation to Operation Homefront Support to be used to pay for postage fee.



Max Kretzers, second from the left, of Dickerson & Quinn, provides a pallet worth of Hormel Spam to be shipped to NMI soldiers serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Kim testifies that Quichocho raped her twice

» Also admits having consensual sex with Quichocho, threesome with couple

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Businesswoman Jung Ja Kim testified Friday in federal court that her then counsel, Ramon K. Quichocho, raped her twice in 2008 while she was on medication due to depression and anxiety.

In the fourth day of her testimony in the ongoing jury trial of her lawsuit, Kim also admitted that she had consensual sex with Quichocho in the latter's car. She also revealed that she, Quichocho, and his wife, Frances, twice had a threesome while she was drunk and under medication for depression and anxiety.

Kim is suing the Quichocho couple, the Quichocho law firm, their company Karissa LLC, for alleged racketeering, legal malpractice, and other claims.

In her testimony, Kim recalled that the first rape incident happened on Nov. 1, 2008, when she asked Quichocho for help because she could not stop crying due to her depression and anxiety. Quichocho brought her to a Guam hospital where a psychiatrist attended her and prescribed her medication.

After dinner at a restaurant with Quichocho and the latter's relative, Quichocho took her to the Hyatt Ho-

tel in Guam. Quichocho told Kim that there was only one room available and asked her if she's okay with it.

Kim said that since she trusted him then, she agreed, but told him not to "touch her." Quichocho told her not to worry.

Kim said the medicine she was on made her sleep. But she woke up later when she felt somebody removing her pants and underwear. It was dark in the room. Kim said she begged Quichocho to stop, but the lawyer held her wrist tightly and told her "I love you."

"I did not have the strength, but told Quichocho please, please don't do this!" she said through an interpreter.

Kim said Quichocho was strong and she was weak because of her medication. As a result, she had bruises in her wrists.

After Quichocho was done raping her, Kim said she cried. Quichocho then hugged her tightly and told her don't cry because he will not hurt her as he loves her.

"I was crying under the blanket. I was hiding under the blanket," said Kim, who was in tears by then.

Later that morning, Quichocho told her to stop crying as they will have breakfast. Kim stated that the lawyer said sorry to her over 100 times.

"My mind was empty. I was in a state of giving up of myself. Everything was empty. The trust, the faith collapsed," she said.

After their breakfast, Quichocho asked her to stay longer in Guam, but she refused because Saipan is where she feels most comfortable.

When asked by her lawyer, Robert T. Torres, why she did not tell anyone about the rape, Kim said she was embarrassed and felt it was her fault because she permitted Quichocho to share one hotel room with her.

Kim said she grew up in Korea and that in their country talking about sexual things is very shameful.

On their way back to Saipan that day, Nov. 2, Quichocho told her that if she would report the matter to the police, he would just post a \$150,000 bail and at trial he would tell the judge that he loves her. When Quichocho said sorry to her repeatedly, Kim told him not to tell anybody about it.

Kim said she did not tell anybody about it, even the police, because she did not have the courage to reveal such a shameful thing.

"The reason I'm here [now] is to say the truth. So there will be no more victims," the businesswoman told the nine jurors.

Since returning to Saipan, Kim said

Quichocho would send her text messages and chats about how much he loves her. Kim admitted that, as Quichocho sent her many text messages and chats in the next weeks and months, she came to the point of trusting him again.

Kim said she was confused if Quichocho really likes her.

Prior to the Nov. 1 rape, Kim said she had no romantic interest in Quichocho.

Torres submitted in court as evidence Kim and Quichocho's numerous exchange of text messages and chats.

Kim said the next rape happened in Quichocho's law office on Dec. 10, 2008, when Frances was in Japan.

Kim said Quichocho asked her to take care of their daughter because Frances was in Japan.

As the daughter was sleeping on the bed in one of the rooms of the law office, Kim said she decided rest on the floor because of her medication.

Kim said Quichocho went inside the room and started kissing her. She told him to stop, but the lawyer covered her mouth and raped her.

Kim said she was more afraid that the child would wake up and see them.

She said she had consensual sex with Quichocho in the latter's car on Dec. 30, 2008, when she went back to Saipan after seeing a doctor in Guam.

She said Quichocho picked her up at the airport and in the parking lot of her house, the lawyer asked her to

have sex. Kim said she told him not to force her and they ended up having sex in the back of the car.

Kim said their three-some happened when she was very drunk and under medication on Jan. 3, 2009, at Quichocho's apartment unit and this was repeated on Jan. 9, 2009, at Sunrise Hotel on Rota.

Kim said their first threesome happened after a birthday party at the Quichocho's apartment and when all the guests left the place. Kim said it was Frances' idea to have threesome.

Asked by her counsel why she agreed to it, Kim replied, "Out of curiosity."

When she woke up that early morning and wanted to go home, Quichocho asked her to stay because he wanted more sex with her.

After that incident, Kim said she told Quichocho, who according to her would always talk about sex during their chats and texts, that he is "an animal."

Kim said she does not like Quichocho, but the latter fantasized that she likes him.

As for their second threesome on Rota on Jan. 9, 2009, she could not remember many details because she was too drunk and under medication.

Kim will continue her testimony on Feb. 19. The trial will continue on Feb. 18 with Kim's expert witness taking the stand.

PDM Promoters collects only 240 lbs of trash

In what could easily be the lowest output since starting its monthly cleanup drive at the Paseo de Marianas five years ago, PDM Promoters, Inc. collected only 240 lbs of trash last Friday at the Garapan tourist district.

The non-profit group's spokesperson, Sonia Siwa, said the all-time low trash collected can be attributed to the Division of Parks and Recreation already having conducted a cleanup days before.

The Friday cleanup also came a day earlier than PDM Promoters' regular Saturday schedule. Siwa said it was by design because the Saipan Awaodori Team, whose members regularly volunteer for the cleanup, had a performance Saturday night at the Paseo de Marianas.

"The Saipan Awaodori kids have weekend performance at Paseo [de



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori Team members and staff from Kinpachi Restaurant pose with the trash they collected Friday at the Paseo de Marianas.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori Team member Kelly Acebo sweeps a portion of the Paseo de Marianas during PDM Promoters, Inc.'s monthly cleanup Friday.

Marianas] so before the performance we did our cleanup first. We also tried the afternoon cleanup on a Friday and it goes to show our kids' dedication in the volunteer cleanup. It's certainly one great way of serving our community and they were not ashamed to do it."

Siwa said majority of the 240 lbs of trash the 14 volunteers from the Saipan Awaodori Team and seven staff from Kinpachi Restaurant collected were mostly empty beer cans and empty beer bottles as well as cigarette butts.

She also happily reported that the issue of betel nut residue being an eyesore at the Paseo de Marianas has been solved, as they no longer see betel nut stains around the tourist district when they do their cleanups.

Siwa also thanked the Division of Environmental Quality for helping PDM Promoters in disposing of the trash they collected without fee at the transfer station.

PDM Promoters is community group known for its cultural dance group, the Saipan Awaodori Team, and for keeping the Paseo de Marianas spick and span throughout the year.

The group's monthly cleanups collect up to 1,000 lbs of trash during these drives. PDM Promoters' monthly cleanup of the Garapan landmark is supported by its major sponsors, TSL Foundation, DFS Galleria Saipan, and Docomo Pacific.

Siwa also invited the community to watch the Saipan Awaodori Team's performances at the Paseo de Marianas Saturday night starting at 7pm. **(Mark Rabago)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Awaodori Team member Kelsy Sablan was one of the 17 volunteers from the Japanese cultural dance group to take part in the cleanup

Health & Fitness

First guidelines issued to prevent stroke in women

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Just as heart attack symptoms may differ between men and women, so do stroke risks.

Now, the American Heart Association has issued its first guidelines for preventing strokes in women. They focus on birth control, pregnancy, depression and other risk factors that women face uniquely or more frequently than men do.

The advice applies to patients like Denise Miller, who suffered a stroke last year that fooled doctors at two northeast Ohio hospitals before it was finally diagnosed at the Cleveland Clinic. She was 36 and had no traditional risk factors.

"There was nothing to indicate I was going to have a stroke," other than frequent migraines with aura—dizziness or altered senses such as tingling, ringing ears or sensitivity to light, Miller said.

These headaches are more common in women and the new guidelines issued Thursday flag them as a concern.

Feds say they fixed Medicaid problem for children

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—A wrinkle in the HealthCare.gov website that temporarily left some children without insurance coverage has been fixed, federal officials said Friday.

Children who have been denied Medicaid coverage can now be added to a subsidized plan, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said in a letter to a New Hampshire congresswoman.

U.S. Rep. Carol Shea-Porter wrote to CMS after report by The Associated Press revealed the glitch last month.

Children who qualify for Medicaid cannot be covered under subsidized family plans purchased through the federal online markets. That left

Miller recovered but has some lingering numbness and vision problems.

Each year, nearly 800,000 Americans have a new or recurrent stroke, which occurs when a blood vessel to the brain is blocked by a clot or bursts. Stroke is the third-leading cause of death for women and the fifth-leading cause for men. The key to surviving one and limiting disability is getting help fast, and recognizing symptoms such as trouble speaking, weakness or numbness in one arm, or drooping on one side of the face.

Stroke risk rises with age, and women tend to live longer than men. Women are more likely to be living alone when they have a stroke, to have poorer recovery, and to need institutional care after one.

Certain stroke risks are more common in women—migraine with aura, obesity, an irregular heartbeat called atrial fibrillation, and metabolic syndrome—a combo of problems including blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar.

some without coverage until their Medicaid eligibility was determined while others who were rejected for Medicaid still couldn't be added to their parents' plans.

In a letter to Shea-Porter on Friday, CMS says consumers can now use the website to report if someone was denied coverage and take steps to add the child to a subsidized plan.

"This fix comes as a relief to families who had been stuck in a difficult situation," Shea-Porter said. "I'm glad CMS addressed my inquiry quickly, and I'll continue working to ensure that the Affordable Care Act works for New Hampshire families."

The web fix will also allow



Denise Miller poses on her front porch Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in Southington, Ohio.

General guidelines for stroke prevention currently focus on controlling blood pressure and diabetes, quitting smoking, more exercise and healthy diets.

The new ones add gender-specific advice, said Dr. Cheryl Bushnell, stroke chief at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C. She led the panel that wrote the guidelines, published in *Stroke*, a Heart Association journal.

Some highlights:

BIRTH CONTROL PILLS:

Women should be checked for high blood pressure before starting on oral contraceptives because the combination raises stroke risks. The risk is small but rises steeply in women ages 45 to 49. More than 10 million American women use birth control pills.

PREGNANCY: Strokes are uncommon during pregnancy but the risk is still higher, especially during the last three months and soon after delivery. The big worry is preeclampsia, dangerously high blood pressure that can cause

a seizure and other problems.

"It doubles the risk of stroke later in life and it quadruples the risk of high blood pressure" after pregnancy, Bushnell said.

Women with a history of high blood pressure before pregnancy should be considered for low-dose aspirin (around 81 milligrams) after the first three months of pregnancy, and calcium supplements anytime, to lower the risk of preeclampsia, the guidelines say.

Pregnant women with very high blood pressure (160 over 110 and above) should be treated with medications, and treatment may be considered for those with moderately high blood pressure (150 to 159 over 100 to 109). Certain blood pressure medicines are not safe during pregnancy, the guidelines note.

ASPIRIN: It's usually recommended for anyone who has already had a stroke unless the stroke was caused by bleeding rather than a clot, or if bleeding risk is a concern, Bushnell said. Aspirin also is often recommended for people with diabetes to lower the risk of stroke

and other problems.

A low-dose aspirin every other day "can be useful" to lower stroke risk in women 65 and older unless its benefit is outweighed by the potential for bleeding or other risks, the guidelines say.

MIGRAINES: Women are four times more likely to have migraines than men, and they often coincide with hormone swings. Migraines alone don't raise the risk of stroke, but ones with aura do. Using oral contraceptives and smoking raise this risk even more, so the guidelines urge stopping smoking.

IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT: Women over age 75 should be checked for atrial fibrillation. Doctors do this by taking a pulse or listening to the heartbeat.

MENOPAUSE: Hormone therapy should not be used to try to prevent strokes.

The new guidelines put women's issues "on the table" so more doctors talk about them, said Dr. Shazam Hussain, stroke chief at the Cleveland Clinic. "Gender does make a difference. The medical community has neglected it for some time."

New treatment could reduce kids' peanut allergies

LONDON (AP)—An experimental therapy that fed children with peanut allergies small amounts of peanut flour has helped more than 80 percent of them safely eat a handful of the previously worrisome nuts.

Although experts say the results of the carefully monitored study are encouraging, they warn it isn't something that parents should try at home.

Peanut allergies are on the rise globally and affect about 1 in 50 children, mostly in high-income countries. The consequences can be life-threatening—peanuts are the most common cause of fatal food allergy reactions. There is no way to avoid a reaction other than just avoiding peanuts. Allergy shots used for environmental triggers like pol-

len are too risky.

Doctors at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge started by giving 99 children aged seven to 16 with severe peanut allergies a tiny 2-milligram dose of a special peanut flour mixed into their food. Slowly they increased that amount to 800 milligrams. The dose increases were given at a research facility where the children were observed for any dangerous side effects—the most frequent were itchy in the mouth, stomach pains or nausea.

After six months of treatment, more than 80 percent of the children can now safely eat five peanuts at a time.

"This made a dramatic difference to their lives," said Dr. Andrew Clark of the Univer-

sity of Cambridge in Britain, who led the research. "Before the study, they could not even tolerate tiny bits of peanuts and their parents had to read food labels continuously."

The intention of the treatment isn't to help kids eat large amounts of peanuts, but to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction in case they accidentally eat trace amounts.

Clark said the treatment works by retraining the patients' immune systems so they can gradually build up a tolerance to peanuts, though he guessed they might need to keep taking it for several years. He and colleagues plan to offer the treatment soon in a special peanut allergy clinic as well as beginning larger studies.

Personal Trainer

'Road rash' first aid

Taking a fall when you are cycling, in-line skating or skateboarding can cause a painful and messy, but shallow, abrasion — a "road rash."

- Skidding on ground leaves road grit embedded in skin
- Top layer of skin is scraped off
- Small blood vessels bleed

How to care for it

Spread lidocaine ointment on skin to deaden pain

Clean skin and remove as much road grit as possible with peroxide solution and gauze

Cover the wound with a light dressing:

- Large adhesive bandage (for smaller abrasion)
- 4 x 4 in. (10 x 10 cm) gauze pad held in place with tape or roller bandage (for larger abrasion)

Replace dressing and clean wound daily, and it should heal quickly

Source: The Physician and Sportsmedicine Online, Bicycling © 2014 MCT

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

Life & Style

Border collie wins Westminster show agility trial

NEW YORK (AP)—A border collie named Kelso rocketed to a win in the Westminster Kennel Club's new agility competition, while a husky mix called Roo! ran away with the recognition afforded to mixed-breed dogs at the nation's premier show for the first time since the 1800s.

Shooting through tunnels, scrambling over ramps, weaving through poles as a tail-wagging blur and taking a tight turn with a celebratory bark, 7-year-old Kelso bested about 225 other dogs—including another shown by his college-student owner—to take the overall championship. And Roo! made it to the final five to garner a prize for the top mixed-breed, or "all-American" dog.

The competition Saturday put a fast-growing canine activity on U.S. dogdom's biggest stage, with the finals nationally televised on Fox Sports 1. While Kelso has won other agility titles, the Westminster trial was something special to his owner, Delaney Ratner.

"It's an awesome way to get our sport out there," said Ratner, a sophomore economics major at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The daughter of agility trainer Cindy Ratner, she could hardly decide which

dog to root for in the final five—Jonesy, a miniature schnauzer she co-owns with her mom, won his height class.

A papillon named EZ, shown by John York of Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and a Pyrenean shepherd called Dash, owned by Ashley Deacon of Menlo Park, California, rounded out the finalists. They were scored on both accuracy and speed, with the top dog chosen through a yard-per-second calculation to account for the competitors' different sizes.

Mixed breeds had their champion in Roo!, a dog so high-spirited that she'd been adopted and returned to an animal shelter several times before San Francisco-based dog trainer Stacey Campbell took her home about seven years ago. Barking avidly as she waited to be the last dog to run, the lanky husky mix zipped through the course to cheers from the crowd at Pier 94 in Manhattan.

"It just shows that you don't have to go get a breed to get a dog," Campbell said afterward. "Any dog can compete in agility."

Established decades ago, agility is an increasingly popular canine pursuit. The number of dogs competing in agility trials sanctioned by the American Kennel Club, the govern-



In this Dec. 16, 2012 photo provided by Great Dane Photos, Roo! weaves through obstacles during agility competition in Orlando, Fla.

ing body for many events, has grown by nearly 50 percent over the last five years.

Agility aficionados say the sport is a canine confidence-builder that creates rapport between dogs and owners, provides a healthy outlet for

high-energy pets and shows what dogs of all shapes and sizes can do. Five-and-a-half-pound, top-knotted Tommy the toy poodle, for instance, flew over the jumps and tiptoed through the weave poles to fin-

ish third in his height group.

"He's a big dog in a little dog's body," said owner Barbara Hoopes, a biology professor at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York.

Saturday's competitors

spanned 63 different breeds, and about 16 competitors were mixes, a substantial shift for a dog show that has long been purely purebred turf. The 138-year-old Westminster show featured some mixes early on, but not since at least 1884, organizers say.

Mixed-breeds still can't compete for the sought-after Best in Show trophy. But their inclusion in the agility contest has brought cheers from owners eager to show that everyday dogs can go nose-to-nose with their purebred peers. Animals-rights advocates who have criticized Westminster, and dog breeding in general, call the development a good step, though they still plan to protest the traditional part of the show next week.

Westminster officials say adding mixed-breed contestants helps the show make good on its aim to honor all dogs and their roles in people's lives.

Nicole Bozich of Southern Pines, North Carolina, recalls being petrified by dogs before her husband persuaded her to get Audie, a probably-pug-terrier mix that a pet store was selling for \$20. Obedience classes evolved into agility training and, eventually, into a spot in Saturday's contest.

Fallon exits 'Late Night,' headed for 'Tonight'

NEW YORK (AP)—It's not so much "goodbye" as "taking a break."

With Jimmy Fallon's departure from "Late Night" on Friday after five years in the host chair, he'll be off the NBC airwaves a scant 10 days before bouncing back as host of "The Tonight Show," which was vacated Thursday by Jay Leno after 22 years.

"I'm really going to miss being on TV at 12:37," Fallon joked in his farewell monologue, where his "fierce rivals" have been CBS host Craig Ferguson "and a Veggie-Chopper infomercial."

But if he was overjoyed at graduating to a berth one hour earlier—and all through the finale he radiated joy—at the same time he could hardly keep his tear ducts in check.

"I'm not gonna cry," he vowed, "but I'm gonna get really close."

"You got to pull it together, man," teased his very last guest, fellow "Saturday Night Live" alum Andy Samberg.

"I'm just a big ol' moosh. 'Irish Moosh' was my nickname in high school," replied Fallon.

The 39-year-old Fallon has promised that nothing much will change with his talk-comedy-music formula,



This photo released by NBC shows Jimmy Fallon who will be the new host of "Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon".

except the new time slot and "Tonight Show" prestige.

But if it's not so big a change for Fallon (or his house band, the Roots, or his announcer, Steve Higgins, who all are coming along), it's a big change for "Tonight," which is returning to New York's Rockefeller Plaza after more than 40 years in Los Angeles, and returning to NBC's Studio 6B, once inhabited by "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

To complete this game of musical chairs, Seth Meyers (another "SNL" grad) becomes "Late Night" host starting Feb. 24.

"We're gonna be a great team back-to-back," Fallon said.

During his monologue, Fallon got nostalgic, with a dash of comedy. He said since premiering in March 2009, he had spun out 10,000 jokes, all of which he proceeded to sum up as: "Joe Biden needed Obamacare after Anthony Weiner texted Justin Bieber a picture of Chris Christie dating a Kardashian on the Jersey shore with Rob Ford."

More sincerely, Fallon voiced thanks to David Letterman for launching "Late Night," and to Conan O'Brien, its second host, as well as to his viewers, whose support "means the world to me. It makes me so happy."

The hour ended with a big musical number: Fallon on drums and singing the Band classic "The Weight," accompanied by a large ensemble of Muppets, complete with Kermit and Miss Piggy.

Then he made his exit from his longtime "Late Night" home, Studio 6A, and strode a few steps down a hallway to his soon-to-be new home. He opened the door to Studio 6B, identified as "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," to find a cheering, welcoming throng. Fade out.

That's awaiting him for real in just 10 days.

NEW YORK (AP)—A week bracketed by op-ed letters of accusation and denial of child molestation left little clarity and scant hope for resolution in a bitter saga that has haunted Woody Allen and the Farrow family for more than two decades.

The back-and-forth between Allen and his adopted daughter, Dylan Farrow, breathed new fire into a long dormant scandal, but what happens next is uncertain, with the possibility of legal recourse and continued scrutiny in the weeks and months ahead.

Farrow, in her most detailed account yet, alleged in an open letter published Feb. 1 by The New York Times that Allen "sexually assaulted" her when she was 7 years old at the Farrows' Connecticut home, renewing a charge against the movie director that was first leveled in 1992.

Allen responded in a letter posted online Friday night by the Times that insisted "of course I did not molest Dylan." He instead claimed the young Dylan had been coerced and misled by her mother, Mia Farrow. The two acrimoniously separated after Farrow discovered Allen was having an affair with her adopted daughter Soon-Yi Previn, who was 19 or 21 at the time. (Her date of birth

is uncertain.)

"I loved (Dylan) and hope one day she will grasp how she has been cheated out of having a loving father and exploited by a mother more interested in her own festering anger than her daughter's well-being," said Allen, who married Previn in 1997 and has two adopted daughters with her.

Mia Farrow has yet to comment on Allen's letter. Representatives for Farrow didn't respond to messages left Friday night and Saturday.

Allen ended his letter by declaring it would be his "final word on this entire matter."

But the rampant debate sparked by Dylan Farrow's accusation will likely continue to stir questions over the alleged molestation, how claims of sexual assault are publicly weighed, and the legacy of Allen's acclaimed work as a filmmaker.

Filing criminal charges would be difficult for Farrow. In Connecticut, Farrow had until age 20 to file charges. (She is now 28, married and living in Florida.) In 2002, Connecticut extended the cutoff to age 48, but that only covers crimes since the change. Exceptions can be made for the most serious sexual crimes.

Connecticut state prosecutor

Frank Maco, who investigated the charges in 1993 but is now retired, has said he believes the statute of limitations ran out on the case years ago.

Farrow could file a civil suit against Allen. Though a suit would offer the opportunity to retry the case in civil court, it would insure a drawn-out, very public battle that would be taxing for all involved.

The history of the case is clouded by a 1993 investigation that was full of contradictions. Allen wasn't charged and a team of child abuse specialists from the Yale-New Haven Hospital brought in by prosecutors concluded Dylan had not been molested. But Maco claimed there was "probable cause" for charging him. In the custody battle, Judge Elliott Wilk concluded Allen's behavior with Dylan was "grossly inappropriate and that measures must be taken to protect her."

A disciplinary panel found that Maco may have prejudiced the custody battle by making an accusation without formal charges.

Maco challenged Allen's statement in the op-ed that he "very willingly" took a lie-detector test. He said that Allen refused a request to take a polygraph from the Connecticut state police during the investigation and that the test he took was administered privately.



Allen

Next step uncertain in Woody Allen allegations

Neil Patrick Harris accepts Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris, dressed in a wig, lingerie and red heels, took the stage at Harvard University on Friday to accept the 2014 Man of the Year Award from

America's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

The "How I Met Your Mother" star cast a few spells, saved someone's life and sang a jingle from "Rent" before being awarded the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' annual Pudding Pot.

"I felt remarkably good in heels," Harris said after the ceremony, adding that he had spent seven hours stomping around in custom heels to practice.

Harris was showered with ridicule by the show's roasters, who said he was best known for 200 episodes of "crappy" television.

The Emmy Award-winning actor has spent 25 years in entertainment playing roles in TV, in film and on stage, where he has sung, danced and even performed magic tricks. He also has hosted the Tony and Emmy awards.

One of the roasters said, "Those who can't do host, and those who can't host host the Spike TV Video Game Awards," which Harris hosted in 2010.

Harris, who has appeared in the "Harold & Kumar" and "The Smurfs" movies and has starred in three Broadway plays, is most recently known for his role as suave ladies' man Barney Stinson on "How I Met Your Mother," a hit CBS comedy in its ninth and final season. He said he broke Barney's bro code on Friday night by kissing two guys in dresses on the lips.



Actor Neil Patrick Harris speaks during a news conference after his roast as Man of The Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals in Cambridge, Mass., Friday, Feb. 7, 2014.

In his earlier days, Harris played a teenage doctor on the TV comedy "Doogie Howser, M.D." He had to tap into his medical expertise on stage Friday to save a choking Jason Segel, his "How I Met Your Mother" co-star, who

won the Pudding Pot award two years ago.

Harris said chuckling that Segel gave him a joke to use for Friday's show but forgot to mention that he used the same joke when he was in Cambridge to accept his award.

DiCaprio, Hill re-team for story of Richard Jewell

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio says he and "The Wolf of Wall Street" co-star Jonah Hill are "going to come up with something unique" as they re-team to tell the story of 1996 Olympics security guard Richard Jewell.

Hill will star as Jewell in the planned film, which was presented to the two actors as they searched for another joint project following the Oscar-nominated depiction of stockbroker excess.

"I think it's such a heart-breaking story and such an interesting story about the 24-hour news cycle: a man becoming a hero and then the

world's biggest villain within 24 hours of each other," Hill said in an interview Thursday night. He was at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival presenting an award to DiCaprio and "Wolf" director Martin Scorsese.

DiCaprio is expected to both produce and play Jewell's attorney.

"The whole premise of it is fascinating in its own right. We're going to have to get together," DiCaprio said in an interview, praising Hill as a creative partner. "When you work with somebody of his talent and his vision, I think we're going to come up with

something unique."

Jewell was initially hailed as a hero for spotting a suspicious backpack and moving people out of harm's way just before a bomb exploded in the Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta, killing one and injuring 111 others. But within days, he was named as a suspect in the blast. He was eventually exonerated and died in 2007 at age 44.

Both DiCaprio and Hill are Academy Award-nominated for their work in "Wolf." DiCaprio was previously nominated for his performances in "The Aviator," "Blood Diamond" and "What's Eating Gilbert Grape." He hasn't won.

'Love & Hip Hop' star says brawl was overblown

ATLANTA (AP)—Reality star Benzino says reports were overblown about a massive brawl that included "Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta" cast members during a recent filming of the VH1 reality show.

Benzino, whose real name is Raymond Scott, said in an interview Friday that what happened was an "isolated" matter. He said the argument late Wednesday night started between his former girlfriend Karlie Redd and his fiancé, Althea Hart.

It came during the opening of a new nightclub in downtown Atlanta, owned by Benzino and Stevie J, the Grammy-winning

record producer who also stars on the hit reality show.

Atlanta Police Sgt. Greg Lyon said there were no criminal acts reported to them from the argument.

"Everything was sensationalized," Benzino said. "There were no bottles thrown, no fists were thrown, no guns were pulled out."

VH1 declined to comment Friday. The cameras were rolling Wednesday, Benzino said.

Redd said in a statement that media outlets clearly have some "misinformation."

"The reality is we are in a time when everyone wants their shine; their few minutes of fame—and I

get that, but I assure you I was not involved in any fighting nor was I knocked out," she said.

Benzino, a former co-owner of The Source magazine, said a friend of cast member Joseline Hernandez was injured with a gash on her head. He also said Redd and Hart hurled drinks at one another.

The "Love & Hip Hop" series is known for its over-the-top drama and fights—making it a ratings success, but also a target for criticism. The fourth season of the show's New York series ended last month. The third season of the Atlanta spinoff debuts in May.

Absentee dad remains object of young daughter's curiosity

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have an extremely bright 7-year-old daughter, "Amy," from a previous marriage. Her biological father, "Jake," and I separated when she was an infant. He lives across the country, so while we shared custody, Amy usually saw him only once a year. For a while I called him "Dad" when talking about him to her, but when it became apparent that he wasn't going to be involved in her life (and because I was going to be remarried), we switched to using his first name.

My current husband formally adopted Amy last year, and she couldn't have been happier. Now there's a baby sister, and Amy is overjoyed.

Recently, though, Amy has started asking me why Jake never visits and when she's going to see him again. I don't know what to tell her. I feel it would be crushing to her to say that Jake isn't interested in her anymore, but I also don't want to lie to her.

How do you tell a 7-year-old she should just forget her biological father because he's never going to be there for her?

ANXIOUS IN HOUSTON

DEAR ANXIOUS: Your daughter needs to come to this realization in stages, and her questions should be answered in an age-appropriate way. Understand that Amy may always be interested in knowing about her biological father, and by the time she is in her teens, she will be computer savvy enough to search him out on the Internet.

For now, tell your daughter that the reason Jake doesn't visit is because he is "busy," and you don't know when he plans to visit. It's the truth.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My brother "Jared" is dating a woman, "Dawn," who is about 10 years younger. They have been seeing each other for about a year. She seems nice and is polite at family gatherings.

I have noticed, however, that whenever I'm spending time with my mother, Dawn is constantly texting or calling her. I'm a grown woman, too, but I never communicated to that degree with any of my boyfriends' mothers.

Jared has told both Mom and me that he isn't even close to wanting to propose marriage. Do you think it's peculiar that Dawn contacts my mother multiple times daily?

TAKEN ABACK IN GEORGIA

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: Dawn may not have a mother of her own and need a mother figure, which is why she does this. Or she may be attempting to ingratiate herself to her boyfriend's mother because she thinks it will help her land your brother. Not knowing Dawn, I can't say for sure—but this technique has worked for other women in the past.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this year and I have a question. We'd love to invite a group of our friends to celebrate with us at our favorite restaurant, but we won't be able to pick up the tab. Is there a sensitive way to ask friends to celebrate with us, but get across the message that it'll have to be dutch treat?

ON A BUDGET IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR ON A BUDGET: If these are close or longtime friends, I'm sure they won't be shocked that you'll be celebrating your 50th — especially if some of them were at your wedding. I think the best way to approach this would be to be honest. Tell them that as much as you'd like to entertain everybody, you are unable to, but that you would love it if everyone could meet for dinner at your favorite restaurant and go dutch treat. And be sure to mention that although it's your anniversary, the only gift you would like would be their presence at this happy time.

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Valentino apologizes for Amy Adams bag-gate



AP

Oscar-nominated actress Amy Adams and her fiancé Darren Le Gallo arrive at a wake for actor Philip Seymour Hoffman at the Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home on Manhattan's Upper East Side, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2014, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—The fashion house Valentino has apologized for touting in an email blast to journalists that one of their pricey bags was carried by Amy Adams as she stepped from a car at the wake of Philip Seymour Hoffman.

Much was made of the promotional email sent Friday, complete with two photos of Adams outside the Thursday wake. Valentino said in a statement that quickly followed that the company didn't realize the photos were snapped at the sad gathering of loved ones for Hoffman, who was found dead Feb. 2 of an apparent heroin overdose in his apartment.

Hoffman, 46, co-starred with Adams in "The Master" and both his wake, and funeral the next day, were attended by numerous celebrities, Adams included.

"We sincerely regret releasing a photo to the media ... of Amy Adams with a Valentino Bag. We were not aware the photograph was taken while she was attending the wake of Philip Seymour Hoffman. It was an innocent mistake and we apologize to Ms. Adams who was not aware, or a part of, our PR efforts," said the regretful statement signed by Mona Swanson, vice president of communications for Valentino USA.

The New York Post splashed the Valentino-toting actress in sunglasses and a sad expression all over its front page Saturday with the headline "DEAD CARPET" after putting up the gaffe online, apparently prompting the apology. The Daily News included the image of Adams with the red, \$2,500 bag in a two-page spread inside the paper.

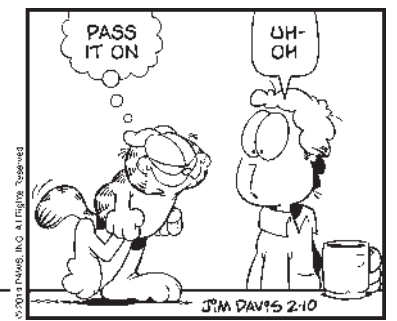
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

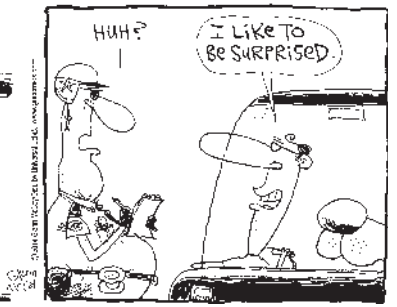
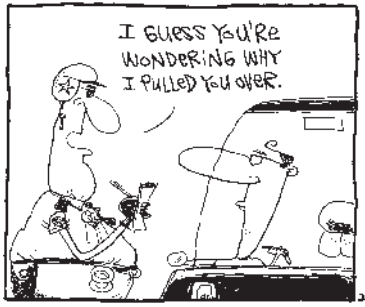
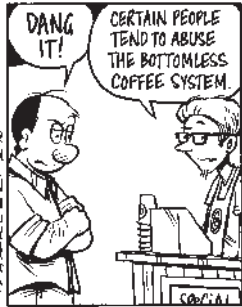
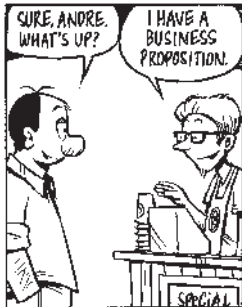


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Molokai neighbor
5 Blonde shade
8 Word before "fall"
12 Script
14 Chantilly, e.g.
15 Like navel oranges
16 Open slightly
17 Dos Passos trilogy
18 Reach
20 Wobbly dessert
23 Summer-time pest
24 Vacationing
25 Overcast
28 Jewel
29 Say something
30 Tamera Mowry's twin
32 Gender-neutral

DOWN

13 As well
19 Chat
20 Binge
21 Rams' mates
22 Hobbling
23 Surmise
25 Accelerates
26 Un-escorted
27 Window ledge
29 Gin fizz
31 Beer
33 Looked inside?
34 Merchants' groups
36 The Crimson Tide
37 Scallopini base
38 Capri, for one
39 Jet forth
40 Spar
43 Opposite WSW
44 Tokyo's old name
45 Crafty
46 Vast expanse

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	E	C	O	D	O	M	H	L	A	W
I	R	A	G	A	P	F	F	A	C	H
C	A	T	A	L	Y	S	T	D	I	R
A	C	E	S				B	O	N	E
P	A	R	I	S		D	O	U	R	
E	G	A	D		B	A	R	R	A	C
D	E	C		S	A	T	A	N		A
I	S	T	A	N	B	U	L		A	T
U	P	B	O	W		O	P	E	C	
S	L	U	G		C	A	T	A	L	O
P	O	S	E		W	H	I	R		M
S	T	Y	E		T	A	C	T		B

Friday's answer 2-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Emma Roberts, 23; Elizabeth Banks, 40; Laura Dern, 47; George Stephanopoulos, 53.

Happy Birthday: Prepare for change. Acceptance will help you maneuver your way through any turbulence you face. Improvements will begin midyear if you are diligent about making decisions that will help you put an end to old conditions and make way for a bright new future. Action will be required to help you take control of your life. Your numbers are 2, 10, 21, 23, 28, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on yourself and what you can do to be at your very best. It's important to be introspective and consider the outcome before you make a change to your personal life that will have a lasting effect. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Rise above any controversy you face at work. Getting along with your peers will help you bypass slowdowns and interference. Learn from the mistakes others make and protect your position. Romance is highlighted and will help improve your love life. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take part in or listen to gossip. Put your creativity into work and getting ahead, not bringing someone else down. Misinformation will be costly if you invest based on hearsay. Stick to what you know, whom you can trust and what you want to achieve. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Follow your intuition and it will lead to new friendships, greater opportunities and mastering your talents. Progress will be a direct result of the

changes you make. Put love high on your list and you will improve your domestic situation. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate, have fun and enjoy the company of the people you encounter along the way. Embrace change and negotiate in order to get what you want. Money will come your way from an unusual source. A creative investment will pay off. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do something that will make you happy. Socialize or treat yourself to a spa day or shopping spree. Romance is in the stars and making special plans for two will bring you closer together. A favor will be granted. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't take on more than you can handle. Keeping life and relationships with others running smoothly will help you avoid unwanted setbacks or last-minute changes that will disrupt your plans. Put more effort into presentation and promotion. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Domestic and personal money matters may not be as they appear. Before making an unnecessary purchase, check your budget and make sure it won't stress your debt load. Self-improvements will add to your appeal and bring plenty of attention and compliments. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Little problems will grow if you evade issues or withhold information. Someone close to you will question your motives or send mixed signals regarding what's expected of you. Focus on home and making positive alterations conducive to your happiness. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): How you deal with personal and professional relationships will set the stage for how things will turn out for you in the future. Try to include everyone in your plans and you will get the help you need to finish what you start. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pick up the pace and get things done. You'll come up with a unique and trendy idea that can turn into a prosperous venture. A change in the way you earn your money is looking good but will need time to build. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Nothing will slow you down once you gain momentum. Size up your situation and take a leap of faith when it comes to investments, contracts or other money deals. A celebration should be planned with someone you like to share your accomplishments with. *****

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9		2		4		5	3	8
5	8						2	
7				8				4
			7		3			
2	1					3		9
			9		5			
8				3				1
	6						9	3
4	7	3		5		2		6

Difficulty Level ★

2/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

2	8	1	7	3	6	4	9	5
4	3	5	2	9	8	6	7	1
9	7	6	4	1	5	2	8	3
6	1	4	9	5	2	8	3	7
3	9	8	6	7	1	5	4	2
5	2	7	3	8	4	1	6	9
7	4	2	5	6	3	9	1	8
8	5	3	1	4	9	7	2	6
1	6	9	8	2	7	3	5	4

Difficulty Level ****

2/10

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOURBON VS. SCOTCH

Solution: 7 letters

D	F	D	B	A	T	G	H	L	Y	R	E	B	M	A
I	E	I	A	D	O	S	E	E	E	J	A	C	K	M
S	R	R	R	A	A	R	K	T	Y	R	R	T	D	E
T	M	I	R	M	R	S	A	Y	L	E	L	W	N	R
I	E	E	C	A	I	W	K	E	D	A	A	S	A	I
N	N	T	B	H	H	C	Y	L	S	P	I	S	L	C
C	T	S	W	E	U	C	O	N	M	N	M	T	T	A
T	E	A	A	T	R	E	A	E	G	O	I	R	O	N
I	D	T	N	E	R	E	I	L	O	N	X	A	C	I
R	A	E	A	E	L	U	E	T	A	E	E	I	S	L
I	K	M	T	R	B	M	H	L	N	R	D	G	S	
P	Y	S	O	M	A	T	S	E	T	I	U	H	E	C
S	U	W	A	R	A	S	W	E	E	T	A	T	G	O
A	E	R	A	C	A	L	F	L	A	V	O	R	A	R
N	D	C	E	N	U	T	T	Y	Y	D	O	B	G	N

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2/10

Aged, Amber, American, Aroma, Austere, Barley, Barrel, Batch, Body, Bottle, Caramel, Cask, Charred, Corn, Creamy, Distinct, Drambuie, Fermented, Firm, Flavor, Grain, Jack, Kentucky, Malt, Mash, Mixed, Natural, New Orleans, Nutty, Older, Pure, Rich, Salt, Scotland, Single, Smooth, Soda, Spirit, Straight, Sweet, Taste, Test, Warm, Water, Wheat, Whiskey, Yeast

Last Friday's Answer: Hot Cool Yours

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STUMPED?

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Williams, Burke lift Jazz past Heat, 94-89



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Marvin Williams has been so hot the last three games that he didn't let an air ball bother him.

With Utah leading by seven in the fourth quarter against the reigning NBA champs, the Jazz forward released a 22-foot jumper that wasn't close.

The Jazz came right back to the unfazed Williams and his back-to-back 3-pointers sparked Utah to a 94-89 win over the Miami Heat.

"I can't think of a bigger win than this one," said Williams, who scored 23 points.

Trailing 87-79 after Williams' shots, the Heat used a 10-4 run to draw within two points after Ray Allen made a 3 from the corner with 46 seconds to play.

Rookie Trey Burke, who had 13 points, rose up and drained the clutch 19-foot jump shot to beat the shot clock and Gordon Hayward's free throw clinched the win for the Jazz, who have beat the Heat at home three straight times.

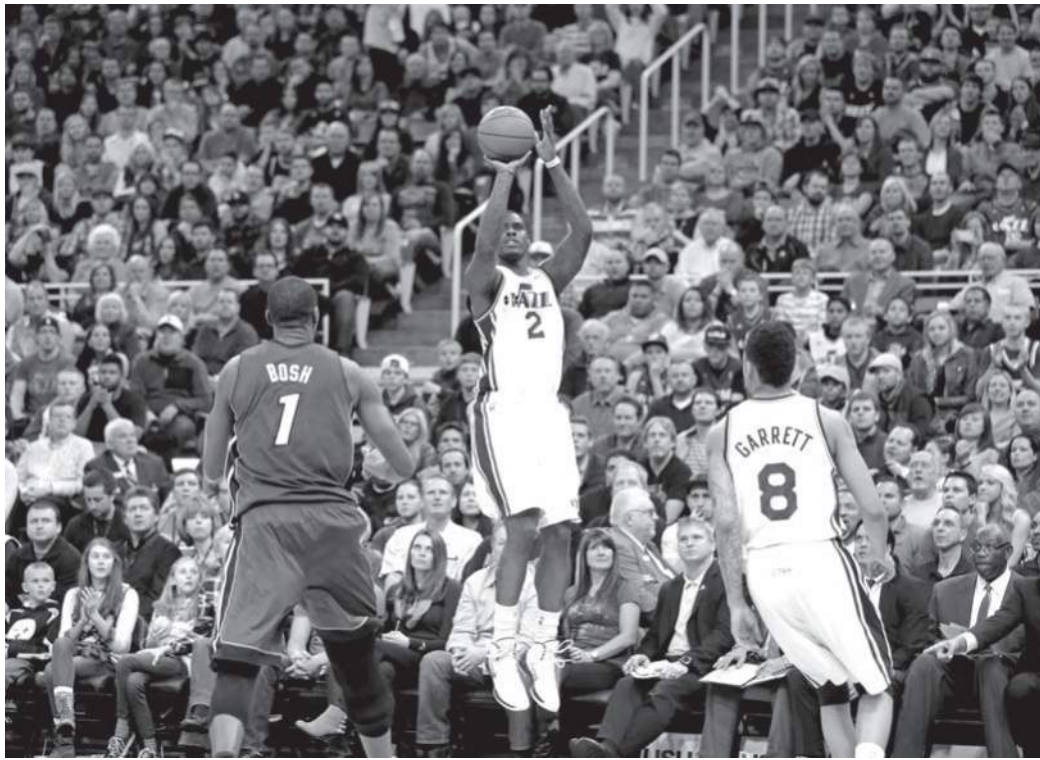
Burke has said he hit the classic rookie "wall" that often plagues first-year players after they've played 35-40 games. Shooting just over 30 percent the past three games, his teammates and coaches have encouraged him to keep shooting.

"They come to me and tell me to play with confidence. 'Don't think about it. Just play freely.' That's what I did tonight," said Burke, who had a penchant for big shots as the AP Player of the Year at Michigan last season.

Dwyane Wade had 19 points for the Heat, who missed their last four shots from the field to thwart their comeback bid. LeBron James was 4 of 13 from the field for 13 points, his lowest scoring total since he had 13 points in a 104-88 win over Atlanta on Nov. 19.

"There's nobody that can stop LeBron from scoring the basketball, but we tried to slow him down collectively as a team and I think we did pretty good," Williams said.

Hayward nearly had his first triple-double with nine points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, while often guarding Wade and James. Richard Jefferson had 14 and Alec Burks had 12 points



Utah Jazz's Marvin Williams (2) shoots as Miami Heat's Chris Bosh (1) and Utah Jazz's Dante Garrett (8) look on in the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Salt Lake City.

for the Jazz, who snapped their four-game losing streak in front of a frenzied crowd.

James subbed in with 7:54 to play and his team trailing 77-70 and the Heat looked poised for a comeback as they also reached the penalty with 6:51 to play. But James missed his only two field goal attempts of the fourth quarter and was 2 of 4 from the line.

The young Jazz, who entered the game with worst record in the Western Conference, relied on their two veterans down the stretch until Burke's big shot.

Williams, who averages 9.9 points, has scored 67 points in his last three games and made 5 of 8 from beyond the arc in this one.

After his air ball, Williams made a pair of 3-pointers—the last shot just beating the shot clock after Jefferson dove to the floor to gather a loose ball and flip it to Utah's hot hand.

"He just found somebody open and I was able to get away from Chris Bosh. I just threw it up there and was able to beat the clock and it went in," Williams said.

Once the Heat turned up the defensive pressure, the Jazz were often scrambling to get any shot they could muster late in the clock. When the ball ended up in the hands of Williams and Jefferson, who had

seven in the final period, good things happened.

"I can't say enough about their focus and desire to help this young group grow. And their play has been great, gives us a chance to be competitive every night," Utah coach Ty Corbin said of his veteran forwards.

James has averaged 31.3 points and 7.8 assists per game in his last four on the road as the Heat have found their offense, shooting better than 50 percent.

"It was just one of those games where offensively we were out of rhythm and you try to win on the defensive end," said James, whose team dropped to 27-2 when holding opponents under 100 points this season.

The four-time MVP also had scored 30 or more in six straight trips to Salt Lake City, averaging 33.5 points while hitting 57.7 percent from the field, but didn't ever get things going in a contest that snapped the Heat's three-game winning streak.

"We didn't shoot the ball well like we are capable of doing," James said. "We had some great looks, including myself, some really open looks."

Even after a couple nights off, the Heat started sluggishly and the Jazz ran around and through them for a 32-18 lead in the first quarter. The Jazz had 11 assists

in the opening period and shot 62 percent.

James gave the Heat their final lead in the opening moments of the third quarter at 54-52, but Utah controlled the game the rest of the way.

"It seemed we were always in the right place at the right time tonight," Hayward said.

Suns 122, Warriors 109

In Phoenix, Goran Dragic scored 13 of his career-high 34 points in the final seven minutes and Phoenix pulled away for a victory over depleted Golden State.

Dragic, who also had 10 assists, topped 30 points for the sixth time this season as the Suns (30-20) pulled a half-game ahead of the Warriors (30-21) for the sixth-best record in the Western Conference.

Gerald Green added 25 points and P.J. Tucker had 16 points and a career-best 15 rebounds for Phoenix.

Stephen Curry had 28 points and Harrison Barnes 23 for the Warriors, who were without front-line starters Andrew Bogut and David Lee.

Grizzlies 79, Hawks 76

In Atlanta, Zach Randolph scored 20 points and Memphis set an NBA record with only one free throw attempt while continuing its pattern of win-

ning on the road with a victory over Atlanta.

Memphis' single free throw attempt is the record low since the shot-clock era was introduced in 1954-55, according to STATS. Cleveland (1994) and New Orleans (2004) shared the previous low of two free throw attempts.

The Hawks set a season scoring low after leading 29-27 following the first period. Atlanta was held to a combined 25 points in the second and third periods.

Paul Millsap had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Atlanta, which has lost three straight. The Grizzlies ended a two-game skid.

Atlanta's Lou Williams missed a 3-pointer with about 1 second remaining.

Memphis has held eight straight road opponents to no more than 90 points. The Grizzlies, one game under .500 at home, are 14-8 on the road.

Courtney Lee scored 14 points and Nick Calathes had 10 for Memphis.

Pistons 126, Nuggets 109

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Brandon Jennings had a season-high 35 points to go with 12 assists, Josh Smith had 30 points and Detroit avoided another fourth-quarter collapse to win a shootout with Denver.

The game didn't quite match Detroit's 186-184 triple-overtime win over Denver 30 years ago, but still saw 11 players score in double figures and the Pistons put up a season high in points.

Rodney Stuckey added 19 points for Detroit, while Andre Drummond had 18 points and 15 rebounds.

Randy Foye led the Nuggets with 25 points, while Wilson Chandler scored 20 and J.J. Hickson added 15 points and 16 rebounds. Denver lost point guard Ty Lawson to a back strain late in the first half. Evan Fournier replaced him at the start of the second half, with Foye moving from shooting guard to the point.

Spurs 104, Bobcats 100

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Patty Mills scored 18 of his season-high 32 points in the fourth quarter and Tim Duncan

had a double-double to lead San Antonio past Charlotte for its fourth win in five games.

Mills was 10 of 13 from the field, including 5 of 5 in the fourth quarter. He also connected on 8 of 9 foul shots and had four 3-pointers to help the Spurs defeat the Bobcats for the sixth straight time.

Duncan finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds for his 22nd double-double of the season.

The red hot Al Jefferson led the way for the Bobcats (22-29) with 26 points and nine rebounds. Gerald Henderson added 23 points.

Trail Blazers 117, Timberwolves 110

In Minneapolis, LaMarcus Aldridge scored 16 of his 26 points in the second half and Wesley Matthews added 21 to help Portland hold off injury-depleted Minnesota.

Aldridge had six points during Portland's game-deciding 13-1 run in the fourth quarter.

Corey Brewer led Minnesota with 26 points and Ricky Rubio scored a career-high 25 for the Wolves, who were without All-Star Kevin Love, Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin.

Despite trailing for much of the game, the short-handed Wolves showed plenty of grit, getting 19 points from Chase Budinger, 14 from Dante Cunningham and a season-high 12 from rookie Shabazz Muhammad.

Rockets 101, Bucks 95

In Milwaukee, Dwight Howard scored 27 points, including three crucial free throws in the closing seconds, and James Harden scored 10 of his 22 points in the decisive third quarter to help Houston hold off short-handed, scrappy Milwaukee to win its fifth straight.

Jeremy Lin added 18 as the Rockets tied their longest winning streak of the season, a mark set in late November.

Brandon Knight scored 23 points for the Bucks and Khris Middleton had 20, including three free throws after being fouled behind the arc with 46.6 seconds remaining as Milwaukee came back to trail 98-95. Howard made three of four free throws for Houston's final points and seal the win.



NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez

ended his extended and acrimonious fight with Major League Baseball on Friday, withdrawing a pair of lawsuits and accepting a season-long suspension that marks the longest penalty in the sport's history related to performance-enhancing drugs.

Rodriguez, who has steadfastly denied using banned substances while with the New York Yankees, made the deci-

Rodriguez accepts season-long suspension

sion nearly four weeks after arbitrator Fredric Horowitz largely upheld the discipline issued last summer by baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

"I think it's a good move for him," former Commissioner Fay Vincent said. "A-Rod had no chance legally, and the commissioner got his authority validated."

Rodriguez was among 14 players suspended last summer following MLB's investigation

of a Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned substances. Given the harshest punishment, A-Rod was the only player to contest his penalty.

The Major League Baseball Players Association filed a grievance, arguing Rodriguez's 211-game ban was unwarranted or at the very least excessive. Rodriguez also sued MLB and Selig in October, accusing them of "vigilante justice" as part of a

"witch hunt" against him.

Horowitz presided over 12 days of hearings last fall highlighted by Rodriguez's decision not to testify. Horowitz concluded on Jan. 11 there was "clear and convincing evidence" Rodriguez used three banned substances over the course of three years - human growth hormone, testosterone and Insulin-like growth factor 1. Horowitz also ruled A-Rod twice tried to obstruct baseball's investigation,

but he nonetheless reduced the suspension to 162 games plus the 2014 postseason after weighing it against baseball's "just cause" standard.

Rodriguez sued MLB and the union two days later in federal court in Manhattan, claiming the arbitration process was flawed. But the Supreme Court has established narrow grounds for overturning arbitrator's decisions, and legal experts said Rodriguez had virtually no chance

of succeeding in his attempt to have Horowitz's decision vacated. Without making any admissions, Rodriguez's lawyers filed notices of dismissal in both cases Friday.

MLB issued a low-key statement calling the decision to end the litigation "prudent."

"We believe that Mr. Rodriguez's actions show his desire to return the focus to the play of our great game on the field and to all of the positive attributes and actions of his fellow major league players," the sport said. "We share that desire."

Russia holds lead in team event, Lipnitskaia soars



SOCHI, Russia (AP)—Like old times, Russia is dominating Olympic figure skating.

The host nation's disappointment over not winning a gold medal in Vancouver will fade quickly if its skaters' performances in the new event of team figure skating carry on throughout the Sochi Games.

Fifteen-year-old Yulia Lipnitskaia had the look of an Olympic champion on Saturday night, dazzling the home crowd with a near-perfect routine in the women's short program. Then it was Russia's backup pair, Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov, earning cheers as they routed the field in the free skate.

With only the men's and women's free skate and the free dance left to contest in Sunday's finale, Russia has 47 points to Canada's 41 and the United States' 34. Italy has 31 and Japan has 30.

With her countrymen chanting her first name, Lipnitskaia put on a mature presentation that had fans stomping their feet and showering the ice with flowers and dolls. Her flexibility and rapid rotation on her spins and jumps were reminiscent of Tara Lipinski when she won the 1998 Olympic gold.

And Lipinski, who was the same age at those games in Nagano, was on hand to see it.

"I have been saying the whole year that she is a dark horse," Lipinski said of Lipnitskaia—yes, the names are nearly the same. "I loved the energy and the fight in her."

Lipnitskaia easily outskated far more experienced competitors Carolina Kostner of Italy, who is in her third Olympics, and Japan's Mao Asada, in her second. The moment wasn't too big for her in any way.

"My trainers told me people would cry," she said. "They told me they would be clapping to the music. But I didn't think the spectators would be so loud. But it helped me to perform really well."

Just like her comrades.

In the new event, Russia has finished no lower than third in any of its four disciplines. The nation that for decades held a stronghold on figure skating medals as the Soviet Union and then as Russia—51 in all—appears ready to hog the podium again after winning just two in Vancouver.

There was nothing ghastly about the performance of Stolbova and Klimov to music from "The Addams Family." Stepping in for world champs Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov, who won the short program, Stolbova and Klimov had the audience in the Iceberg at So-

chi's Olympic Park on its feet well before they finished their routine.

"We feel a great amount of responsibility for our country and, of course, (had) the fans on our side," Klimov said through a translator. "We did believe we have to be ready for that and do our best."

It was a good night for the Americans, too. The team was seventh heading into Saturday, but thanks in great part to world champion ice dancers Meryl Davis and Charlie White, it got back into contention for a medal. The 2010 ice dancing silver medalists quickstepped to the rescue by winning the short dance.

"We don't feel like we're trying to carry any sort of burden or load," White said. "We're counting on the whole team to pull through together and I think that's what makes us such a strong team."

But not nearly as strong as the Russians, led by a teenager who doesn't look her age.

Lipnitskaia's flexibility on every move, combined with her speed, not only enraptured the audience, but impressed the judges to the tune of 72.90 points.

"We are different," Lipinski said. "Even though I was young, I remember I wanted to show I could skate with the big guns."

One of this year's big-timers, Italy's Kostner, was graceful and elegant when skating to "Ave Maria" on her 27th birthday. She was second.

Japan's Asada, a two-time



Yulia Lipnitskaya, of Russia, competes in the women's team short program figure skating competition at the Iceberg Skating Palace during the 2014 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014, in Sochi, Russia. AP

world champion, fell on her trademark triple axel and dropped to third, just ahead of Ashley Wagner of Alexandria, Va.

"I was very nervous today, more than I expected, and that is the reason for my mistakes on the ice," Asada said.

Wagner struggled at the U.S. championships and was placed on the Olympic team despite finishing fourth. This short program was more representative of her talent, although she two-footed a landing that cost her points.

"That performance for me was incredible," Wagner said. "I needed that, for myself, for my confidence. I needed to put out that performance."

Defending ice dance champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada were second even though she bobbled during their early set of twizzles.

"I think I might have lost a little bit of speed after the first (twizzle)," Virtue said. "It wasn't a mental lapse."

Davis and White, both from Michigan, unquestionably deserved the top spot. Their twizzles—traveling one-foot spins—were so precise it seemed as if they were one skater. Their concluding rotational lift to music from "My Fair Lady" was spot-on.

"Everything hasn't been 100 percent perfect," Davis said of the U.S. performances. "But that's part of what a team is, is being there for each other. We have a really great standard."

Jimmy Walker seizes control at Pebble Beach



PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—

The wind was so strong, the conditions so demanding, that Jimmy Walker felt like Saturday at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am was competing against the golf course instead of the rest of the field.

Golf's hottest player wound beating them both.

Walker finally made his first bogey of the tournament, and that was only a nuisance. He ran off five birdies at Monterey Peninsula for a 4-under 67, the best score of a blustery day, giving him a six-shot lead going into the final round.

Walker went 187 starts on the PGA Tour without winning. He now has a chance to win for the third time in his last eight tournaments. He won the Frys.com Open last fall about an hour away at CordeValle.

He won for the second time this season last month in Honolulu. In both those tournaments, Walker was trailing going into the last day.

This time, he has the largest 54-hole lead at Pebble Beach since Phil Mickelson led by

seven in 2005. Mickelson went on to win by four shots.

"I've never had whatever big lead this is going into the last round," Walker said. "Just go out and hit good shots and play good golf and see what happens."

He was at 13-under 202.

Tim Wilkinson of New Zealand had a 69 and Hunter Mahan had a 72, both at Monterey Peninsula. They were at 208.

Havoc happened on Saturday on all three courses, particularly at Pebble Beach.

The third round was not completed because of a delay lasting 2 hours, 19 minutes due to gusts at 30 mph that made golf balls roll off the green, mostly at Pebble Beach. In a three-course rotation, play has to be stopped at all three courses.

The average score at Pebble Beach was just over 75.

Jordan Spieth caught the brunt of it. Tied with Walker going into the third round, Spieth was 5-over through 15 holes when the round was halted by darkness. That included a pair of three-putts on the front nine when he went out in 40, and another

three-putt from 18 feet. Spieth missed an 8-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole, and then chose to mark the 5-foot par putt he had coming back.

Walker opened with a 66 at Pebble Beach when it was calm, the best time to play it. That doesn't mean he was off the hook on the Shore Course at Monterey Peninsula. He just had to play his best, and he did.

On the par-3 ninth, typically a 6-iron, Walker smashed a 5-wood into the wind and couldn't reach the green. He made one birdie with an 8-iron from 140 yards, and was hitting 4-iron that went only about 165 yards.

"It just feels like a battle," Walker said. "You're not battling really anybody else. You're not battling the field or a tournament. You're just out there trying. The golf course is trying to beat you up."

Richard Lee had a 72 at Spyglass Hill and was alone in fourth at 209. Phil Mickelson had a 71 at Spyglass and was among those eight shots behind. Only three players broke par at Pebble—none better than Dustin Johnson's 70. Brendon Todd looked as

if he might have one of those rounds until bogeys on the last two holes.

"Nine and 10 are par 5s today. I couldn't reach either one," Todd said. "There were no birdie holes out there."

Play was stopped about an hour after the last group teed off. It was a peculiar sight to see clouds gathering on the Pacific horizon, and officials trying to spray water on the greens to help balls stay on the putting surface.

It didn't work.

And when play resumed, Brian Gay was given relief on the fourth green at Pebble Beach because of standing water left from hosing down the greens. He was able to move his ball some 15 feet to the other side of the green.

But the big trouble was the wind.

Kevin Chappell's approach to the par-3 fifth sailed over the cliff, and he ambled down toward the beach to play the shot. The par-5 sixth at Pebble, usually reachable with a long iron, was a true three-shot hole. On the 109-yard, downhill seventh hole into the wind, the club of choice was a

chip 8-iron.

It was most difficult with the putting - being able to stand over the ball, trying to hit it as it wobbled and judging the speed. Geoff Ogilvy three-putted from 3 feet twice in a three-hole stretch on his way to an 81. Spieth had a pair of three-putts that sent him tumbling out of contention. The worst was on the ninth, when he gunned his 12-footer for par about 4 feet by the hole, sent the next one 5 feet by on the other side and raised his arms in mock triumph when he made the third one.

D.A. Points might have had the best time. His score didn't count.

Points was disqualified Friday for using a sponge ball as a training device while waiting on the 18th tee. He returned Saturday to contribute to the pro-am side of the competition with former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The team shot 77 and missed the cut.

"It meant an enormous amount to me," Rice said. "He didn't have to do that. It speaks really well for him and for the tour that he came out played, anyway."

OSU star Smart shoves fan in loss to Texas Tech



LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—Marcus Smart hustled back on defense to prevent a dunk and went careening into the crowd behind the basket. He was helped to his feet with only seconds remaining and No. 19 Oklahoma State on its way to a fourth straight defeat.

That's when all the trouble started.

Suddenly incensed, Smart got in the face of a Texas Tech fan who appeared to say something to the star guard. Smart shoved him with two hands.

The man stumbled backward a bit, but didn't fall. Teammates quickly pulled Smart away from the fracas, and he pointed back in the direction of the fan.

Smart was called for a technical foul but was not ejected. He remained on the bench until the final buzzer.

As fans stormed the court to celebrate Texas Tech's 65-61 win Saturday night, Smart was escorted off the floor by a man wearing Oklahoma State colors—with a uniformed police officer trailing right behind.

A unanimous selection to the preseason All-America team, Smart could now face discipline from the Big 12. Texas Tech spokesman Trenten Hilburn said

John Underwood, the conference's associate commissioner for basketball, said the league would review the situation.

"I didn't see it yet. I want to make sure I see it and see what happened," Oklahoma State coach Travis Ford said after the game. "I'm still trying to figure it out."

No Cowboys players were made available to reporters after the game.

Smart tried to block Jaye Crockett's dunk attempt from behind with 6.2 seconds to go and tumbled into the front row of the crowd.

He was helped up by one man but then went after another, Jeff Orr, who travels thousands of miles each year to attend Texas Tech basketball games, according to athletic department spokesman Blayne Beal.

Smart pushed Orr, and fans nearby looked stunned—one wide-eyed woman next to Orr pointed at Smart as he was pulled away.

Texas Tech coach Tubby Smith said he turned away from the play and didn't see the altercation.

"You really have to find the film to see what happened," he said. "I assume the officials saw what happened. That's why he got a technical out of it. The frustration when you're losing



Oklahoma State's Markel Brown(22) and Phil Forte(13) hold Marcus Smart(33) after Smart shoved a fan during their NCAA college basketball game in Lubbock, Texas, Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014.

sometimes on a losing streak, I've been there before, it can be tough. I'm sure he regrets doing that, whatever he did, so things like that happen in the heat of the battle."

Crockett scored 21 points and tied his season high with 12 rebounds to lead Texas Tech.

Smart had 22 points and Phil Forte added 15 for the Cowboys (16-7, 4-6 Big 12).

Considered one of the best all-around players in the country, Smart has showed frustration more than once during an inconsistent season.

The sophomore guard got off

to a fantastic start, leading to speculation that he could be the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft this year. He has struggled in some recent games, though, including a four-point effort against West Virginia when he kicked a chair on the bench. That led to him apologizing to his teammates afterward.

This one was tied at 61 when Crockett hit the go-ahead shot with 41 seconds remaining. Oklahoma State's Le'Bryan Nash lost the ball in the lane, and Crockett raced toward the basket at the other end.

Smart knocked the ball away

and was called for a foul, then pushed Orr and drew the technical. Dusty Hannahs and Crockett each made one of two free throws for the final margin.

The Red Raiders (12-11, 4-6) earned their second win over a Top 25 team in the past month. They beat then-No. 12 Baylor in January.

None of Texas Tech's players had ever played in front of a sellout crowd at home before. The last two at United Spirit Arena came in January 2007, including New Year's Day when former Red Raiders coach Bob Knight got his 880th win to

RED

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run in that inning and one more in the sixth. However, the Red Sox countered with two runs in the last two innings, one earned off Henry Lizama's single in the seventh. The other one was Bradley Lieto's run off a Jets booboo in the sixth.

Braves 11, Lions 3

The Braves also held the Lions to three runs in the final match of the day to extend their winning streak.

Luke Iguel came for starting pitcher Roke Tenorio in

the fourth inning and threw a no-hitter to hand the Braves the victory one inning early. Iguel also struck out six runners and had only one error, throwing a wild pitch that gave the Lions their only run in the last four innings.

Before Iguel took over the mount, the Lions managed to notch two runs in the first three innings with Jesse Kalen reaching home off a catcher's error in the first inning and Perry Celis' single driving home Ton Ilo in the second.

The Braves were shut-out in the first inning before

their first five batters lit up the scoreboard at the bottom of the second inning to grab the lead. James Kintaro gave the Braves their first run off a stolen base, while J.J. Li-foi and M.J. Sakisat made it home off passed balls, and Juan Quitugua and Iguel scored off a wild pitch and A.J. Evangelista's sacrifice fly, respectively.

The Braves never looked back from there with Iguel doing a great job on the mound in the last four innings.

JPO Enforcers 14, Fielders 5

last Sunday.

Villanueva finished Week 1 of the competition with a 1-1 record, as he earlier dominated Gary Ramsey in his first game last Saturday, 8-0. Fiesta Resort & Spa's teaching pro Luke Beling is the fifth player entered in the men's singles and will be playing this weekend.

In the boys U14 singles, Top 2 seeds Michael Ren and Luther Lizama barged into the semifinals. Ren, who drew a bye in the opening round, gained a semis berth after whipping

The JPO Enforcers barged into the win column after outclassing the winless Fielders (0-3).

The Enforcers scored seven runs in the pivotal top of the third inning en route to their first victory in the season.

Before their uprising, the Enforcers were behind, 1-4, after two complete innings. Verlance Secharimal scored an unearned run for the Enforcers in the second inning, while the Fielders bagged three unearned runs and one off a stolen dish.

At the top of the third, the Enforcers' first five batters

reached home, as the Fielders committed an error after another. The Enforcers continued to turn the Fielders' miscues into runs in the next two innings, racking up one run in the fourth and four more in the fifth.

While the Fielders, who used four different pitchers to stop the bleeding, kept on giving up runs to the Enforcers with their defensive lapses, the former's offense could not take off, too. The defending champions were held to one run in the last five innings with Mike Muna reaching home off a wild pitch.

Haruya Eda, 8-0. Eda made it to the quarterfinals of the top half of the draw after an 8-2 win over A.J. Hudkins. In the other quarterfinal pairing in the upper draw, Joshua Abragan was scheduled to duel Robbie Schorr with the winner facing Ren in the semis.

In the lower half of the draw, Lizama took the semis seat after an 8-1 victory over Steven Goodwin. Lizama's semis foe will be the winner in the quarterfinals duel between Tony Kim and Vincent Tudela.

In the boys U12, the field is down to four players. Jamin Elliot, Sean Lee, and Gang Min Kim marched into the semis after beating separate foes and joined qualifier Ken Song, who drew a bye in the opening round.

Elliot was paired against Jeffrey Seo and won, 8-3, to set a semis showdown against Song. Lee also cruised to victory against Brian Kim, 8-2, to arrange a semis tiff versus Gang Min Kim, who slipped past Eugene Park, 9-7.

the first singles plum came from the 2014 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup in New South Wales. Lee, who also topped the doubles event in Victoria (with Hana Kim), won against more than 20 youth players in the Land Down Under.

4 MAKE

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competition, Zapanta shared NMASA's January award for adult athletes with Marchitti, who was selected for her participation in the 2014 Tour of Guam.

Marchitti joined the 50 to 59 age group of the 105-kilometer race, timing in at 4:43:40 and finishing ahead of the open division's third placer Tomoko Okada (4:45:11).

Rangamar was in the same race and got NMASA's nod after topping the U19 division of the

annual event. He clocked in at 4:49:18 to beat Guam's Ricchan Lin, who logged 4:51:06.

Another CNMI athlete who did well in an off-island tournament was Lee. The Commonwealth junior tennis player was part of the Pacific Oceania Junior

become the winningest coach in Division I.

This victory gave the Red Raiders as many Big 12 wins this season as they had the past two years combined.

The score was tied 13 times and the lead changed 12 times as each team put together runs throughout the game.

Oklahoma State went on a 17-7 spurt to open the second half, including two 3-pointers by Forte and six points from Smart, to go up 44-36. But the Red Raiders didn't buckle. They used a 9-2 run to pull to 46-45 with 11:14 remaining.

Texas Tech went ahead 51-48 on a 3 by Crockett right before Kamari Murphy picked up his fourth foul with 7:47 left. The Cowboys answered, culminating with a 3-pointer from Smart to go up 57-54 with 4:31 remaining. Crockett quickly tied it at 57 with a 3.

Oklahoma State struggled early, making one field goal in 11 tries. But the Cowboys used a 10-0 run to go up 14-10.

The Red Raiders answered with a 9-2 run and later an 8-2 spurt in the final 1:29 of the half to lead 29-27. Oklahoma State's point total for the half was a season low.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	26	24	.520	—
Brooklyn	22	26	.458	3
New York	20	30	.400	6
Boston	18	33	.353	8 1/2
Philadelphia	15	36	.294	11 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	35	14	.714	—
Atlanta	25	24	.510	10
Washington	24	25	.490	11
Charlotte	22	29	.431	14
Orlando	15	37	.288	21 1/2

Central Division

Indiana	39	10	.796	—
Chicago	24	25	.490	15
Detroit	21	29	.420	18 1/2
Cleveland	17	33	.340	22 1/2
Milwaukee	9	41	.180	30 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	37	14	.725	—
Houston	34	17	.667	3
Dallas	30	21	.588	7
Memphis	27	22	.551	9
New Orleans	22	27	.449	14

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	40	12	.769	—
Portland	36	15	.706	3 1/2
Denver	24	25	.490	14 1/2
Minnesota	24	27	.471	15 1/2
Utah	17	33	.340	22

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	35	18	.660	—
Phoenix	30	20	.600	3 1/2
Golden State	30	21	.588	4
L.A. Lakers	18	32	.360	15 1/2
Sacramento	17	33	.340	16 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eucon foils Mt. Carmel's bid for first win

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Eucon International School denied Mount Carmel School entry to the win column in the varsity division of the 2013-2014 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League after posting a 55-47 victory last Friday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Blazers limited the Knights to 2 points in the last 4:48 of the game to hand Mt. Carmel its fifth loss in as many matches. Eucon bagged its third win in six games to move up to third place behind unbeaten MHS (5-0) and Saipan Southern High School (3-2).

Eucon, which opened an 8-point lead in the first minute of the fourth canto, 44-36, played steadier past the half-way mark of the payoff period after Mt. Carmel threatened a comeback. The Knights moved within 1, 45-46, as they outgunned the Blazers in the next four minutes of the fourth, 9-2, behind Jared Sablan's back-to-back layups, William Camacho's triple, and Soon Hyung Kwon's putback.

Mt. Carmel had several chances to steal the lead in the ensuing plays, but took time to set up its offense and was forced to take hurried shots most of the time and muffed them, while a split free throw from Amos Ren halted the Knights' rally.

Ren followed it up with a layup to give Eucon more



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Eucon International School's Amos Ren drives against Mount Carmel School's William Camacho, left, and Soon Hyung Kwon during the second quarter of their game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

distance, while team captain Allen Yu delivered the killer blows, scoring the Blazers' last 6 points. Yu made the dagger in the last two minutes with his and-1 play. He nailed the bonus charity and then trooped to the line anew for a split, as the Knights struggled to pull

up for shots in their next two possessions. A fastbreak layup from Yu gave the Blazers their biggest led, 55-45, before Min Su Kim ended Mt. Carmel's drought with his undergoal stab in the last seven seconds of the match.

The Knights earned only 2

points for nearly the remaining half of the pivotal fourth, as its offense became too predictable with either Sablan going for daredevil drives or Camacho pulling up for jumpers.

Mt. Carmel suffered another loss despite controlling the first half of the weekend match. The Knights led by as much as 8 points in the first half, 21-29, before settling for a 29-23 advantage at the break. Eucon then regrouped in the third to wrestle the upper hand, 42-36. The Blazers, which held Mt. Carmel to one field goal and 7 points in the third, forced the first deadlock in the second half, 35-all, after Michael Zhang's pull-up jumper from the baseline at the 3:38 of the third. The Marcus Little-coached Eucon then had a 7-1 windup to take the momentum of the game.

SIS 43, Eucon 32

In the junior varsity game, Saipan International School notched its second straight win after outclassing Eucon.

The victory also avenged the Geckos' 28-48 defeat to the Blazers in the first round. SIS lost two more games after bowing to Eucon before barging into the win column with an upset over Southern late last month, 44-39.

Against Eucon, the Geckos saved the best for last, scoring 19 points against only 4 for the Blazers to turn a 24-28 deficit at the end of the third to an 11-point win.

As expected, Christopher Cepeda towed SIS to its second consecutive victory, as he drilled a game-high 19 points. He made 11 of them in the cru-

cial fourth quarter, including the Geckos' first 5 markers in that period.

Eucon, which dropped to a 2-2 record, fell apart in the fourth frame, as only Jack Wang hit baskets for the Blazers.

Junior Varsity

SIS 43 — Cepeda 19, H. Kim 8, Johnson 7, Y. Kim 5, Cepeda 3, Smith 2.

Eucon 32 — Jac. Wang 13,

Pecson 7, Vidal 4, Je. Wang 4, Jam. Wang 2, Ji 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-7, 15-15, 23-28, 43-32.

Varsity

Eucon 55 — Yu 18, Ren 10, Zhang 10, R. Wang 7, Li 4, J. Wang 4.

MCS 47 — Sablan 17, Camacho 15, Kwon 8, Toves 2, Kim 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 23-29, 42-36, 55-47.

Tight battles in Budweiser roll-offs



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Budweiser January King of the Lanes Robert Talavera is flanked by Queen of the Lanes co-winners Diana Camacho, left, and Kathy Mersai during last week's awards ceremony at the Saipan Bowling Center.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Stiff competition marked Saipan Bowling Association's season-opening Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament held last week at the Saipan Bowling Center.

In the January King of the Lanes contest, the winner was decided by only two pinfalls with Robert Talavera earning 833 pinfalls against the 831 of 2013 King of the Lanes Raymond Zapanta. Talavera pulled off the close win after collecting 199 pinfalls in Game 4. He tallied 220, 193, and 221 in the first three games to fall behind by 44 pinfalls against Zapanta, 634-678. Zapanta, who logged 191, 248, and 239 in the first three games of last Monday's roll-off, then collapsed in the last game, as he recorded 153 and averaged 207.75, allowing Talavera to keep the January title.

Before his neck-and-neck battle versus Zapanta in Monday's competition, Talavera participated in the Sunday roll-off and took the early lead with his 807 pinfalls (212, 176, 236, and 183). Bowlers are allowed to compete on both days of the monthly event, but only the higher score is counted.

Fourteen others joined the two-day event, including third place Ador Dimaano, who racked up 827 pinfalls. He had the best single game score (251 in Game 3) in the tournament to go with his 204, 183, and 189 in the three other games for an average of 206.75 pinfalls.

Lito Teodora missed the 200-pinfall average with his 198 and 792 four-game total and

settled for fourth place. John Jimeno came in at fifth with his 777 pinfalls, followed by Percy Omechelang (766), Simon Manacop (756), Raymond Angeles (739), Paul Panglinan (721), Yong Woon Lee (715), Raul Dumapit (662), Ronald Batac (660), Edward Baluyan (635), Jae Yong Kim (618), and Roger Vales (544).

Meanwhile, in the Queen of the Lanes, there was a tie for first place between Diana Camacho and Kathy Mersai.

Diana Camacho registered 676 pinfalls in Day 1 of the roll-offs, after tallying 190, 149, 158, and 179 in four games while

Mersai had the same total in Day 2 of the monthly tournament to share the January honors with the former. Diana Camacho also participated in

Day 2 of the season-opening competition, but her 670 pinfalls (160, 188, 133, and 189) was only good for fourth place. Mersai, on the other hand, forced a tie after showing her best form in Game 3, earning a field best 224 pinfalls. She had 123, 196, and 133 in the three other games.

Completing the Top 3 finish in the women's division were Diana's daughter Carrie and Gina Sablan. Carrie competed in both days of the tournament and her Day 2 score of 670 (195, 193, 137, and 145) won her the second spot, while Sablan notched 658 pinfalls (159, 190, 172, and 137) to make the podium finish.

Other female keglers who joined last week's event were Gloria Omechelang (631), Mel Regis (629), Elena Soll (618), Ron Cal (615), Yho Villavicencio (577), May Alegre (568), and Gigi Zapanta (541).

NMIFA kicks off spring youth league

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association began its 2014 spring season last Saturday, drawing 48 teams for its youth league.

The co-ed U12 division drew the most participants with 10 squads joining the 2014 NMIFA Youth Football Spring League. The list includes two teams each from MP United FC, Paire FC, and Tan Holdings FC and one apiece from Kanoa FC, Shirley's FC, Matansa FC, and Tinian Premier Club. Eight teams played their season-opening games at the various school pitches last weekend, while Tan Holdings FC 2 and Tinian drew a bye in the kick-off day.

In the U8 division, all eight squads played last weekend with Kanoa set to collide against Tinian, while the three other pairings were MP United 2 versus Tan Holdings; Paire against MP United 1; and Matansa over Shirley's FC.

In the U10 division, Tinian drew a bye, leaving Kanoa FC,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Matansa FC goalie stands by on defense as Paire's Ethan Dickinson attacks during the second half of their game in the opening week of the NMIFA youth spring league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa FC, MP Unoted 1 and 2, Paire 1 and 2, Tan Holdings, and Shirley's FC to see action in the opening week.

In the U6 age group, six teams are participating in NMIFA's grassroots program. They are Kanoa FC, MP United FC, Matansa FC, Shirley's FC, Tan Holdings FC, and Paire FC.

All games in the U6, U8, U10, and U12 divisions are non-competitive ones and though scores will be recorded, they will not

be included in team standings, as these age groups aimed at promoting fun matches and improving players' skills.

Meanwhile, the U15 and U18 divisions will have team standings and will later award the season championship to each winner.

In the boys U15, five teams will battle for the spring crown. Leading the list is the favored MP United FC, which will be up against Paire, Matansa, Tan

Holdings, and Shirley's.

In the girls U15, six teams are entered in the spring season. Kanoa FC is fielding a squad this season to join returnees Matansa, Paire, MP United, Tan Holdings, and Shirley's.

In the boys U18, it will be a four-way fight among MP United, Paire, Matansa, and Tan Holdings.

Games in the competitive age groups are played at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and the Hopwood Junior High School Field.





Williams, Burke
lift Jazz past Heat,
94-89
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Saipan Tribune Sports



Russia holds lead
in team event,
Lipnitskaia soars
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28 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Red Sox, Braves share Senior League lead



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Red Sox runner, right, is safe at first base, as Jets first baseman Nathan Camacho bends to pick up a throw from catcher K.J. Deleon Guerrero during the top of the second inning of their game in the Senior League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Lee leads Coconut Classic semis cast



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jake Lee goes for a powerful return to Michael Ren during their game in the co-ed U18 singles event in the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Red Sox and Braves remained undefeated in three games to tie for the lead in the Senior League division of the 2014 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Red Sox played in the first game last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield and downed the Jets, 7-3, to improve to a 3-0 record. The Jets absorbed their first loss in three games.

A five-run top of the second inning helped the Red Sox win the battle of unbeaten squads. The Red Sox, who failed to score in the first inning and faced a 0-1 deficit, capitalized on the Jets errors in the second inning to gain control of the match, recording four

runs off their foes' miscues and one of a fielder's choice.

The Jets, who made it to the board first off Franco Nakamura's unearned run, went scoreless in the next three innings, struggling against Red Sox pitcher Jhace Palacios. The Red Sox ace pitched in no relief, struck out seven and allowed six hits and no earned runs.

The Jets ended their silence in the fifth, but only got one

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4 make NMASA January honor roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association has a complete roster of January awardees with four athletes getting the monthly recognition for their notable performance in separate tournaments last month.

Making January's honor roll were Athletes of the Month Raymond Zapanta and Susan Marchitti and Student Athletes of the Month Carol Lee and Gerald Rangamar. They were selected for NMASA's first award for the season during the group's monthly meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Zapanta was picked for the



Male Athlete of the Month for winning the Saipan Bowling Association's Budweiser King

of the Lanes Tournament last month. He beat 17 other bowlers in the qualifying competition after averaging 200-plus pinfalls (207.22), the only player to do so in nine games, and gained an outright finals berth.

In the championship round, Zapanta was pitted against back-to-back winner Simon Manacop, who moved a win away from a three-

peat after stunning the former in Game 1 of the finals, 186-148. However, Zapanta would not be denied, as he ended Manacop's streak with a 241-184 victory in the deciding Game 2.

With his win in the SBA See 4 MAKE on Page 26



Zapanta



Lee

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Top-ranked Jake Lee marched into the semifinals of the 2014 White Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament after dominating Michael Ren, 8-1, last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis court.

Lee advanced to the semis of the co-ed U18 singles after showing his much younger foe a neat tennis lesson and finishing the match in less than an hour. Joining Lee in the Final Four were Colin Ramsey, the returning Christian Miller, and Thea Minor, who downed separate foes over the weekend.

Ramsey played last Sunday at AMP and worked out an 8-5 stunner against Amami Sakano to set a semis date with Lee this weekend.

The other semis pairing will be an all-Saipan Southern High School students duel with Minor taking on Miller. Minor,

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Marchitti